



月道異世界道中

Tsuki ga michibiku isekai douchu

Tsuki ga Michibiku Isekai Douchuu

POV Chapters

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[Novel Updates](#)

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# Hyuman, The Truth and an Encounter *Rinon*

*Between chapters 20 and 26*  
*This chapter fits into the entry of 26.5*

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Zetsuya.

It's the name of the place I'll be living.

There were also a number living on farthest back on this place that was called the "Last Base" positioned at the edge of the world.

At the foremost line of Exploration and Reclamation.

Although this knowledge of mine that i live by was passed down to me by my Oneechan, my only family.

The edge of the world was so enormously large that even now, it was told that Hyumans has yet even explore a percentage of it.

Those that inhabit these lands were the "Mamono" whose might was so powerful that it was common tradition to circulate this joke-like information of which was also a harsh reality.

Even still, due to to the valuable resources, formidable enemies and jobs that would only be found here, many adventurers and merchants that arrive here usually cannot separate with the devilish charm of the land and thus stay here.

Somehow, people were able to establish bases by persevering through these wastelands.

There were naturally a lot of establishments that collapsed along the way but as long as the base exist, the foundation of this frontier, there was nothing to worry about.

Disputes among the residents on the other hand were very frequent as many people with short fuses were also living here.

This place, Zetsuya was said to be one of the greatest place to be among the

ones established within deepest parts of the base, it even has a track record of existing for more than two decades now.

To achieve what Zetsuya has been aiming for had also become the major objective of those adventurers that were a part of it, somehow i was starting to feel the same.

that was because I've heard of it time and time again, i naturally became able to memorize the contents of it.

However, summarizing all of it, this was an extremely dangerous place.

My Oneechan, Toa is an adventurer at such a place.

Although the work was extremely dangerous, oneechan had her own purpose for doing so.

So even though we've already discussed it a number of times already, we are unable to leave this wasteland and return to the frontier town of Tsige "Mou, there's no money. Someday I'll absolutely learn to understand your habits..... oneechan no baka" (TN: Oneechan no baka = sister you idiot. Sounds more natural if i kept it that way) I grumbled a complaint as I sighed looking inside the wallet with only a few money left.

Oneechan had already crossed the line before this.

Although it was not a matter of life and death, it was already very close to it.

She obtained a large debt due to failing a request to the higher-ups.

The debt was prepared when oneechan was preparing for he next adventure, well, she has her own ways on going out for request but she had exceeded the time limit that was given a long time ago.

She was unable to stop it.

Then Finally during a request, while somehow being able to keep treading on the edge of a cliff, she completely lost her footing.

Oneechan's injuries were heavy but were healed somehow and the money she had left were able to cover the fees but.

Eventually, she was not able to return home at the house that the two of us

lived in.

For the sake of repaying the debt she needs to work for it, this was later informed to us by a person whom I didn't know.

And that was how the story ends.

This was the story that i had formed after listening into the conversation of the adventurers that had returned.

Learning about the state she was in my body trembled.

Because, I felt that it was the same as being told to not being able to meet oneechan again.

Furthermore, it's impossible for me to keep on living by myself from here on out.

I don't have any practical skills that i can use for work nor the ability to become an adventurer.

The only ones that has work here are those with adventurers as relatives.

However i only have myself now.

When Oneechan disappeared, It had meant that the remaining time i have left had begun it's countdown.

Living here is dangerous.

While it may be true that money would be made if I return to Tsige, there's nothing left with me to use.

Money would likely be essential to have (there's not much left though, for now i'll needgo out.) In order not the attract the gazes of the public, i regulated my breathing and hid and then bared myself for a life on the road.

How i would be able to learn of oneechan's current state and a way to change her circumstances, that time i still hadn't know how.

But i was worried, scared and lonely.

The last thing that comes to mind was what I had thought, oneechan.

My one and only oneechan, even though we sometimes get into fights no

matter what happens, I understood that she will always be an important person to me.

Fortunately i was saving for myself so living by myself for a little while should be possible.

No matter how many days it take, I'll drink water little by little, and at the time i reach my limit finally eat a meal.

I would somehow be able to survive everyday while slowly gathering information regarding oneechan's circumstances.

And then, at such a time, it happened.

"you, aren't you Toa's sister. ah, Rinon, right?"

"....."

I didn't answer.

I held my voice in and didn't answer as i might encounter the same fate of Oneechan who was captured.

That's why even though my sister's name was blurted out, i have no plans of showing any intention to respond."Even if you stay quiet, we've already investigated you so give it up already. Generally, the children here wouldn't even be able to escape right? Continuing to live poorly outside, It's only a matter of time before you dry up and freeze to death. There's already a magic formation laid out by security around here so even if you do sneak around as quietly as you can, it will only be a matter of time before we find you again."Uuu.

I bit my lips.

It hurts, but i's vexing.

Certainly, living by myself without being seen by anyone is not a reason.

As it was said, living outside within the wastelands and it's harsh environment, i'm not sure if i can even live for a day.

As long as it was within the base even during the night, it would still be livable to some extent with some preparations to be made.

To think that i would be caught because of a laid out magic formation, I had somehow approached it and carelessly placed myself in a situation where i would have been killed.

I haven't thought about any of it at all.

But.....to be discovered simply like this was something i didn't expect."Don't glare at me with a face that's about to cry. You see I, I really think oujou-chan did great persisting this far. Ain't that right?"

"....."

Therefore what are you sayingi?

Will you give me something as a rewardï?

Are you going to return my Sister?

"As of now there's nowhere to go to. You've already been entrusted to me to some extend anyways. Don't you want to meet Toaï? Your oneechan has yet to reach the needed income for the debt, and we can't exactly overlook your circumstances so we've decided to take you with us."

"Aaah! Oneechan is doing well!?"

"Ooh?~€€you finally opened your mouth eh. That's right, Toa's still safe. But you know?~€€that Oneechan of yours had gotten involved in something bad, I especially came here myself to inform you of this."

"Something bad? What kind of bad? What will become of Oneechan?"

The frightening feeling i had when she left the house was returning again.

In my head, there was a possibility of not being able to meet her again, that was what i had felt. But if what he was saying was true then I thought I.....Uun, let's not think about it.

".....At this rate, listen well as she may no longer open her eyes. And in the worst case, Die. But I can lead you to a place where she currentlu is at."

"i!!!"

tha-that's impossible.

No.

No, No, No NO!

“However!”

“Uun!”

“Saving your Oneechan depends on you. I’ll explain to you in detail on how you would be able to achieve this.”

“.....eeh?”

“Rinon, you are a smart kid. In this way, you can do your best as a child.....Don’t you want to save your Oneechan?”

The old man broke into a grin as he was evaluating me with such detestable eyes.

Do yo want to save her?

The answer to that had already been decided

“I want to save her!”

“Of course you do. That means you’ll listen to my request right? What, it’s really not that of a difficult job actually. If it’s you that’s a smart kid, it might even become more simpler”

If it’s something i can easily do, i want to know what it is.

I was fond of drawing and painting things but i understood that it was impossible to do business with.

It was unprofitable.

Such a thing was my hunch.

Wha-what if.....Even thought i’m still child like in appearance, i am still technically a girl.

I remembered my sister telling me of such a thing that i prepared my mind for it, such men with hobbies like that really do exist.

But, if such a thing can make Oneechan return.....i’ll bear with it.

I’ll have to bear with it.

Although my breathing was somehow getting unpleasant, i couldn’t bring out



any words to say it.

I naturally gritted my teeth and toughened my face because I understand what needs to be done.

“.....Rinon, you’re drawing out too much strength. What? If i tried to sell your body people would definitely kills me, I will not do such a thing so there’s nothing to worry about. Relax, relax.”

What kind of face was i making that what i was thinking was actually seen through.

But that definitely gave me some peace of mind.

This guy is probably bad man but he was telling me that i can go and save Oneechan.

You can somehow see what i am thinking from my face so the reason why he had come here was surely for the same reason.

I don’t know as to what extent should i believe this old man but no good would come out for me and Oneechan if I oppose him at this point.

I had an unreasonable face as released the tension from my body, I listened to this words and nodded in agreement as i relaxed myself.

“What a good child. Now then, Rinon. There was an event a while ago that cause an uproar in the base, did you know?”

“.....well, something really strong came to attack but it retreated without doing anything something like that, are?”

“that’s right. It’s regrettable not to keep clever children like you. That certain incident had already passed greatly but right now, did you know that there’s another uproar that’s about to happen in the Guild House?”

“.....that, i don’t know”

“A gag order was immediately ordered here.....Indeed, there was also an issue to keep silent regarding it. Not knowing about it is not being unreasonable. It’s just that i was able to grab hold of it, there were two really strong women, and they apparently came to register”

“A woman, and two of them at that”

“Correct. I’m not sure if it’s related to the matter earlier but i have some people who cares about it. It’s that guy, the man wearing a mask with the suspicious looking appearance. I want you to take my place and investigate those two women, all three of them.”

“M-Me!?”

“That’s right. What? I’m not telling you to fight, i just want you to cooperate with us. That’s why i want you, Rinon, to successfully infiltrate their group. I don’t care what kind of method you use to do so as long as you can get information out of them. A child abruptly asking them if you can lend a hand wouldn’t be too suspicious and would give them a peace of mind right?

There’s no way i can do this.

I heard that those adventurers with very high levels posses amazing intuition and had already stopped being Hyumans that even lying would get seen through.

This is something enormous, something that’s terribly strong.

If I were to lie to them, I’ll certain that I’ll get discovered.....

“I, Such a thing, I will...”

“Your Oneechan will die, are you surei?”

“!?”

As i was about to refuse, my words suddenly stopped as i told my self to absolutely not utter the remaining words.

I see.....I have, no choice.

Of course, even if i do refuse, right now even i would be.....

Why me, why was i in such a place.

I want to cry.

I want to let it all out and cry.

But then i thought to myself, they took all the trouble of searching for a child

so if i do refuse, they'll look for another child as a substitute.

That's definitely it.

".....do it. I'll do it!"

"Then it's decided! I promise you Rinon. If you work hard at the job we have given you, we will definitely let you meet your sister"

"Definitely? You'll really let me meet Oneechan?"

"Yes, I tell no lie. You will definitely meet her"

"I'll do my best. I'll make sure to gather a lot for you guys"

"That's the spirit. fufu, well then come over here. I'll teach you what that guy looks like"

"Right now?"

"Isn't it obvious. We will have you get to work very soon. That guy's actually having his meal right now. Our guys were willing to skip over the details to know that guy's circumstances. Look at him, remember his face, once he returns at the inn they stay at, you will make contact with him, understand?"

"I-I'll be doing it today!?"

"What? We're going to send you to work quickly, don't you want to meet your Onee-chan?"

".....I got it. I understand."

I was guided inside a warehouse like building..

What was inside was a desk, above it was a large crystal like ball that reflected my entire face Looking at the old man, he pointed to it and then held his chin.

So i do need to look into that thing.

Oneechan, I will definitely do my best.

Kachakacha (Sounds of rattling)

Facing each other, the two them were eating their meal.

Uwaah, this place is terribly expensive.

Instead of three people, there were only the two of them but, I definitely must get information that I need from them.

First one would be, that guy.

He was quiet, with the exception of eating politely everything else was normal.

Though I haven't caught wind of using the fork and knife in such a way, as if it was natural to use it with both hands to eat in eating a meal.

But his appearance was terribly odd.

I am not sure if it's his hobbies or bad taste but, wearing an odd looking robe and a mask that covers his face from the eyes above definitely doesn't match a person who owns a store.

There was this calm feeling but anyhow, I think this person is definitely suspicious. I'm not even sure of his age.

The other person on the other hand was very lovely.

She had a nicely trimmed beautiful black hair and was wearing beautiful clothes that I had never seen before.

Just like Oneechan, but a little older.

She was very elegant, that even those from inside the shop would agree.

But that was only in appearance though.

Even if you think about it while observing, the mood would change with that kind of eating.

The knife was left alone on the table.

Only using the fork, person after person had been carrying in and out plates from their table while she stuffs the food into her mouth excitingly.

It really looks good but.....somehow, this was wasteful.

Even though she was likely raised excellently, there was not an ounce of Table Manners that can be seen in her.

But the man which was her partner seems to understand her quite well, as i thought, i give up.

The two of them seemed to be whispering something among themselves but, i really wasn't able to take hold of what it was about.

I was able to see a different spectacle before me but, the noise that was reverberating through here was different from all the other shops so you'll really need to focus in order to listen into their conversation, else you wouldn't be able to really understand any of it.

Unexpectedly, my stomach grumbled.

I hit my stomach unintentionally with my hand in response to it.

Because, I really can't help it.....

Honestly, it had already been two days since i last ate a proper meal, if anyone were to see this scenery of deliciously looking food I'm sure that even them.....

I shook my head sideways to clear such thoughts.

This isn't good, right now is not the time to be to be like that and get embarrassed.

Excluding the two of them, i can see from a distance the figures of a couple.

In this base, it's very rare to see someone who was well clothed.

The ones that do are occasionally the merchants who had come to do business, they usually give out the feeling of being part of some noble group.

To be having their meal in such a place, as i thought, aren't these two people rich.

If so, i was told to approach them but after looking at myself, i was wearing dirty and ragged looking clothes.

What should i do.

Following what the old man said, it really would have been better i had asked for some clothes.....

I was trying to think very hard regarding some things however, i really can't

help myself but stare motionlessly at the scenery of the masked man and black woman that were eating.

Are?

Somehow, the man with a mask, did something.

I wonder, i seem to let my guard off lightly.....

His hands that were taking the meal suddenly stopped and and the woman seemed that she would do the same.

I think it would have been good if they spoke though.....,

To a degree, that state of silence continued for some time.

I then saw that the hands of the black woman had already stopped.

Becoming distressed, feeling down, somehow, it was very cute of her.

aah... I see.

Could it be that.

Those are writings?

Could it be possible that instead of exchanging conversations, they were using characters instead.

Unless i look at it from a different angle, i wouldn't be able to accurately see what he is saying and if i did do so, maybe i would learn why the black woman's facial expressions were changing frequently.

I wonder what would happen if i were to raise my voice, at time, would they caught wind of who i was and get suspected?

Being surprised would be good, I don't mind if it's like that as long as it's going into a calm direction.

Somehow, I felt that the mood of the man with the mask had turned bad.

He doesn't seem pleased with the surroundings as they were giving a lot of different impressions and feelings.

Seeing those that were around, i can't help but feel that it really give that kind of impression.

Aaah, they stood up.

After eating the deliciously looking ice cream, the both of them stood up from their seats.

Even though the man with the mask was somehow only drinking water, the black woman was drinking a colored drink within and after the meal.

Probably, that was alcohol.

She continued to drink the water like substance then afterwards ate ice cream and then raised the last filled glass above and drank it.

Each time it would be emptied, the waiter would come and fill it up for her that i can't help but think that they may have drank more than the bottle i saw when i wasn't looking.

And yet, when the two of them stood up the man with the mask wasn't even drunk and was even fine walking on their own.

Surely, this man was one of those people that can drink alcohol without even getting drunk.

Oneechan was somehow like that, she was aware of how much alcohol she can handle but i still remember her coming home drunk and collapsed.

Even if it was just a little, I suddenly remembered Oneechan.

"Finally they're out. The woman most likely had more of the alcohol. Even though he got herself drunk, somehow she's able to skillfully use her hands to keep her balance."

"Old man. I, Would i be fine with these clothes? As your partner, are you not going to lend me some?"

"Clothes eh.....Isn't it fine. I was looking for your sister when i was gone a while ago and if I do say so myself, it would be unnatural for you to be wearing clean clothes. So it's fine as it is"" .....OK" (TN: Originally it was "hai") "I understand the circumstances so observe from a distance, you'll do just fine."

We'll have to see.

Keeping watch indeed would have a different meaning.

I having chills run down my back.

Mou, I have no choice but to do this.

“It’s going to be fine.”

“Then let’s go. We’ll be going to the place where we’ll be meeting them. It’s this way”

As I was told to, I walked through the streets dressed in tattered clothes.

It was a place with not much people.

I was left at the end of the road and stood there by myself.

I was being watched from afar so i failure was not an option.

Even though I was afraid of the streets at night some time ago, I had already forgotten about it and felt that I became afraid of something else instead.

They came.

The two of them finally arrived.

Their silhouettes looks exactly the same so there’s no doubt that it’s them.

I left from the end and walked towards the middle of the road to wait for them as they approached.

In order for them to surely stop, I positioned myself at a place that would definitely interfere with their advance.

The woman and masked man stopped in front of me with just a little distance between us.

As if to whisper something, the woman drew near and spoke to the masked man.

As i thought, I can’t hear what they were discussing.

A moment later, my legs began to tremble.

But being unable to speak of my circumstances, the woman had already finished her talk and looked at me tsutsutsu! (TN: She’s making sounds in her head here, lol)

When our eyes met, I felt that the sensation from my legs disappeared.



I felt that a part of my body from the waist down had completely disappeared.

I'm scared.

This woman is scary.

I tried to look with my eyes.

And for the first time, mine met with hers.

Those eyes were something that showed no interest, like it was somehow looking at something of no value, it was those eyes. Like i was not even seen as a person, immediately i knew.

"Child. Do you need something?"

"th-that, I-I was"

"You're in the way, move aside."

"Hii" (TN:Sound of being afraid)

It was neither cold nor warm.

Either of those words were painful to me.

All of the feelings i had earlier were gone in an instant and when i came to, i wasn't even aware of how much time had passed.

The feeling from my legs were still not there that i had to confirm by touching them through my fingertips. I am still here, that was what i told myself.

I felt that i was useless.

Even if no one had told me so, I had failed and felt terribly sad.

But—before the woman was able to say something, the man with the masks swiftly struck the woman's head that it produced a "Supaan~" sound.

I really heard a "Supaan~" sound.

It didn't really matter anyways but i was really surprised.

The masked man was telling something to the woman while pointing his right hand in the air.

Ohh, As i thought it, he was writing in the air.

It's the common language.

It was the one that Hyumans use.

As long as it's through speaking, you can communicate as long as your are a Hyuman with the blessing of the Goddess.

Although I'm no good in reading and writing as i didn't study, that in itself is something i can somehow do and try.

Well then...

「¼»Such a small girl, even though you're my partner. What were you trying to do by intimidating her]

“T-To intimidate her, something like that, i didn't do, waka-sama. I was just trying to remove the hin.....”

[I was just want to hear if she had some business with us. How did it become a discussion of removing someone.]

“Because, she wouldn't even have such a thing ..... In addition to that, It's not very interesting to have my walk with waka-sama be disturbed.....”

The woman was using common language to answer the masked man writing's.

The feeling the woman was giving off towards me was different somehow, a warm feeling but also a troublesome feeling.

Somehow, it was the same feeling that she was giving off when she was eating.

“fufufu”

Oh my, before i can even think about it, i had suddenly changed into a smile.

Settling on the crowd as it is, I laughed while watching the two of them.

The person whom i had thought was terribly scary was laughable right now at their exchange, such a thing like fear was already gone.

Looking back, even i was stupid enough to think about it but it was already

too late to do so.

“what is it that am i doing that’s funny?”

[Stop it Mio. It’s already fine anyways]

The man with the man approached me

[It seemed like you got frightened earlier, I apologize for that. This writing, are you able to read it?]

I nodded.

I wonder what it was with this suspicious looking person

Somehow his eyes were not hidden by his mask and gave out a strange feeling.

[I’m glad. Did you need something from us?]

I can feel that the masked man was writing his words in the air gently.

That was the feeling of the voice earlier, I wasn’t aware of what it had meant but I knew that what i had felt before that this person was definitely a man.

He didn’t care if his robe would touch the ground and crouched down so that he would be able to see my face.

I see.

This person is...

“I, I am called Rinon.”

[Un. So it’s Rinon-chan. I am called Raidou. that person is called Mio. We’re traveling merchants.]

He nodded his head slightly and pointed at the woman with his hands.

Somehow, the movement seemed a little grandiose

This person, even though i’m a child, still treated me as someone he does business with.

This is, this thing right now was very unthinkable.

Even though it’s known that I’m just a weak child with no money.

Raido-san was very gentle and i can tell that most of what he said are what he truly felt, I can see that he was a good person.

To be able to meet such a friendly person in Zetsuya was as i had thought, very unlikely “Well, I have a request.”

[For me?]

“Yes. That is”

[You can slowly tell me. Calm down first and speak.]

I really can't understand his motives.

And by the time i saw his writings.

I, suddenly remembered the feeling of Oneechan not being able to return, it was something i always put up with that and had accumulated within me.

“Uuu, fue.....”

[Rinon-chan?]

“U, Uuuuu.....just rinon is fine, Uaaaaa~~n!!”

I threw my arms around the person that i had met for the first time before me.

No, clinging to him was a better description.

But i could no longer feel any strength from my legs and could only cling to Raido's knee while i use my other hand to wipe the tears off my face.

Half of me was lying on the ground with a bad posture

“Wha!? This, go away, eh, eeeeh!?ã€€but waka-sama, your clothes would get dirty, that, doing such a thing for this one girl, uuu, yes.....I understandã€ŒIf it's fine with waka-sama! mou!”

Mio, she was saying something to Raido and me but it seemed far away.

Raidou seemed to be trying to tell me something but i wasn't able to see what it was and could only hear my loud crying voice.

I only wanted to search for my sister, I somehow blurted it out while screaming, if i somehow said something else i no longer remembered much.

And so this was how I met the strange but friendly and mysterious Raidou-san.

Within the merciless rays of light that shone at noon.

I returned to the inn where Raidou-san was staying at.

The mood doesn't seem to be good.

Uun, This is the worst.

I really looked lame last night with all that crying and screaming and had decided to stop by the luxurious room where Raidou-san was lodging.

In there was one of the fabled strong woman in the story that i had heard.

She was called Tomoe, another person also seemed to be lying down on the bad.

Looking around, I can see that it was an amazing room.

I suddenly felt nervous at the once i entered the inn, and when I still remembered the time when i entered the room as i looked like an idiot with my mouth wide open.

Looking at the room, even if you break it down into pieces, it was still larger than the place where mye and Oneechan had lived at.

Furthermore, the room was sparkly and decorations can be seen that i felt that it was similar to a room of a princess.

I was looking at Raido-san like it was natural for him to stay in this room, whether who or what this person was, I still do not know.

At this time i thought, the he was definitely a person with plenty of money.

I was told that Raido-san had an illness and was told of a story that occurred a long time ago where he was cursed to not being able to use the common language.

At first i thought that it was the work of the Mazoku but it seems that it was different.

But for some reason, i was somehow thanked by Tomoe.

I wonder what had angered her in the middle of telling the story.

Somehow, it also felt like she was preaching.

The two of them lied down and was talking about something regarding a person not being a man but a woman.

I was brought to another room and was asked of the features of Oneechan and afterwards was asked to clean myself.

Somehow after that i quickly fell asleep.

The main reason for it was the hot water.

It really felt good but.

.....I really don't want to remember the color of the water after i had finished wiping my body .

I had made sure to properly clean the cloth that i used to wipe myself to i definitely won't be found out.

Come to think of it.....I was praised of my skills in drawing when i was asked to sketch a portrait of Oneechan.

It's only a picture that i drew but when i was somehow praised that my drawing was good, i really put my all into it and drew the best picture that i can do.

I was really happy to be praised for something that i really liked to do.

When Raidou-san saw the picture that i drew, he really showed a surprised face and stared at my sister's picture for some time.

For a moment, I thought that those like my sister was his type but i began to differ otherwise.

The following day, or this morning in short, at this time the gentle atmosphere was back but.

Raido-san, when I was trying to get much more friendly with him by calling him oniichan, he suddenly told me that he was reminded suddenly of his sisters, But he was making an unpleasant face as he was telling me this, however i told

him that it was easier if I called him that way.

By this time, we were already getting accustomed to exchanging conversations by written communication and speaking and decided to insistently call him Oniichan.

In fact, I was having difficulties trying to call him Oniichan the first time but got really used to it after calling him that a few times.

I was told then to not really mind as to how i should call him.

The two woman accompanying him were already gone so Oniichan and I prepared ourselves and went to the Tradingguild as merchants.

I carried the luggage into the coach and was going to ride inside it but somehow, Oniichan doesn't seem to know as to how to operate the horse drawn carriage despite being a merchant.

It was unbelievable.

From his demeanor i thought that he was rich but instead felt that he was incredibly rich.

I reluctantly held the reins and proceeded in heading into the trading guild.

There was a place that you can go if you want to sell things however the trading guilds does the task of selling and buying together.

I was mistaken as a slave in there because of the tattered clothes that i was wearing but Oniichan quickly denied it and i really didn't mind about what the merchant had said I was usually looked down upon so i was really surprised to see that the person earlier lowered his head in apology.

Afterwards I..... Into the place where Oniichan was staying at, excitedly returned once more and was about to flew in.

But I then met the old man.

Somehow, if Oniichan were to hear what we were going to talk about, he'll learn all of it.

I was having this very unpleasant feeling, it was growing inside of me and getting larger, all this time i have been telling myself that it was for the sake of

saving Oneechan.

But what the information the old man gave me was not enough, he told me that i wouldn't be able to meet Oneechan anymore.

This was different from the promise!

I begged desperately.

Oniichan and Oneechan.

Even though I loved the both of them, as i thought i can only choose one and definitely it's going to be Oneechan Oniichan was really kind and gentle but he was not truly my brother.

Oneechan was the only family that i have and was at a place where she was helpless, If Oniichan were to hear this, I would certainly get told to and abandoned but still, i continued to beg the old man.

“If you insist so much you leave me with no choice. Do one last job. Then I will return you your oneechan. I will also forget about your debt”

“!! You are able to do something like that?”

“Yes, It's actually simple. Listen well, right now Raidou-san is carrying 500 Gold coins. I want you to bring it to me. There was also a chance that you would get doubted but we can easily take care of him. Somehow, the only strong ones are the two people that were his companions, he doesn't seem to be that much capable of doing anything so dealing with him would be simple.

“I-I can't do that! That's stealing!”

As i was about to say that, i held my mouth with my hand.

I-I can't.....I can't tell him that.

“Again, you're unable to do it eh? I really don't mind though?”

“.....you want me to steal everything?”

“The gold was definitely placed into the bag, being able to see it should be simple. Carry the bag, and bring it to me.”

“But, If either Mio or Tomoe were to return, it would turn into something serious.....”



“Then at the time, why don’t you just apologize? Just make sure that after you steal it, you will drop it at a place where i can pick it up later on”

“Such a thing.....”

It’s unfair.

This person is the worst.

Why Oneechan?

In what way were you able to acquire such a large debt in such a place?

Even if it was for the sake of our ancestors, it no longer involves us!

Even though it would have been plenty to have lived enough on any town!

For me to steal money from a very kind and amiable person, It was absolutely worst.

Absolutely, the worst, and yet.....!

“I’ll be needing to return to the mansion anytime now. Rinon, what will you do?”

“I’ll return, immediately”

“You reeeeeaaaaly are a GOOD CHILD, Rinon”

Shut up!

I wanted to yell that at him.

But i can only keep it to myself and murmur it in my heart.

And then, I now headed to Raido’s room.

Stealing money from my person that helped me find my sister and my benefactor was definitely the worst The worst.

I ‘m, the worst.

“tsu?”

The floor, I felt that it suddenly shook.

An earthquake? (TN: I hate to break the drama but you already know what happened here) But an earthquake occurring at Zetsuya was something that

had never happened even once.

Again.

This time it was quite a shake.

It was as if i was being tossed to the side, It was that large of a shake.

Instantly i looked out of the window.

In order not to to fall, i grabbed the edge of the window with both of my hands “ehi?”

Something’s, strange.

What i saw with my eyes was something i still couldn’t beleive.

I soon noticed what this strange feeling that i had was.

There was a building in the town that was being reduced to dust.

Again, It shook.

AAaaah.

I finally found the reason why it was shaking.

There was something dark covering the building, slowly swallowing and crushing it.

It was strongly eating away at it that the vibrations it was making was reaching here.

Not only that.

After the dark like thing was done eating the other build, another building was cut in half.

It was sliced in half cleanly like it was slashed with a sword.

Afterwards, the building turned completely white, collapsed and disappeared as it turned into dust.

This time there was no shaking.

Somehow I didn’t feel scared.

It wasn’t that i was afraid but perhaps because i was too scared.

At that time I was suddenly reminded of the two women accompanying Oniichan, Tomoe-san and Mio-san.

If it's those two people, I thought that it may be possible for them.

I got found.

Is what i had thought and at the same time i closed my eyes.

The reason was not because you were stealing money!

It won't do even if you apologize, Zetsuya will become nothing!

I went toward's Oniichan's room and hurried to the entrance of the inn.

Where is it, i was looking within the range of what i can see!

I ran through the where the entrance was, afterwards i stood still.

"There's, nothing?"

What i saw first and foremost, at the place where the old man was supposed to wait, there was already no one in there.

Uun.

At the place where from the inn where you would see a lot of buildings standing, right now, there almost nothing to look at anymore.

There wasn't even any people here.

As if looking for the first time at the figure of Zetsuya.

My feet stopped when i reached the entrance of the inn and had looked at my surroundings.

I saw asilhouette move.

What i saw was more than

Looking closely, there was more than one of them.

In there was a person that seemed to look like Oneechan.

Other people were in there too but my legs had already stopped moving.

The only ones moving were those two.

Tomoe-san and Mion-san.

As i thought, it was those people that did it.

In the twenty years that this base had existed, in a place where there wasn't even a hole, it had completely changed.

I can't stop my body from shaking.

Why was it that i was trembling, I was thinking that i was scared earlier.

In a straight line where i was at they were advancing, Uun, in the place where Oniichan was staying, the two of them are now returning.

As soon as i noticed that it was indeed Oneechan that they were carrying while heading here, I immediately broke into a run towards them.

"Oneechan, I'm gladâ... ..that you're doing well"

Finally at this time, I was now sure of Oneechan's safety.

I was so happy.

I was happy but thinking what would happen to me afterwards, i was starting to get really anxious.

i wonder what would Oniichan say after looking at what had happened.

Right now, I'm currently at a carriage handling it's reins.

The one staying next to me was Mio-oneechan.

Staying on the other side was Raidou-oniichan.

And currently I am in the middle of them.

Inside the carriage was my sister lying on the bed along with the other adventurers that were held with her.

Tomo-oneechan was the only one left bellowing after being told by Oniichan to head into the wastelands.

No matter how deeply i think about it, it was useless.

Oneechan was some how alive.

Oniichan was together with us to send us back to Tsige.

Since Mio-oneechan was also here, so there was absolutely no reason to be afraid.

I felt that we were very lucky having them.

That was because we were heading to town in hopes of healing our ways of living.

Thank you! Raidou-oniichan, Mio-oneechan, Tomoe-oneechan.

Even though i'm too shy to tell this to them personally, I really have the greatest gratitude towards them.

I was then thinking of drawing and painting pictures as a way to earn money even if it was little by little. And so with me handling the reins of the carriage, we were now movingtowards Tsige.

# Mio Carriage Ride *Mio*

*Between chapters 28-37*

=====

A journey with Waka.

This is the best.

Though this would have been better if we were alone together.

My master, Misumi Makoto.

I, who does not have any memory of the past and was driven insane from my hunger, was saved and given a home and future to live for.

He is the master whom I have contracted to and decided to serve my life.

The person who has given me a new identity, Mio. The person who was originally the black spider of disaster with compassion... and well you should be aware of it.

...Well, I will not go against Waka-sama's decision.

Fuu.

While I am sitting on this coach, looking at the boring scenery passing us by while and having nothing to do, I start to think about the past and other things.

The other things that I think of besides Waka are... mostly about food. Well, this cannot be helped as I have very little memory of the past.

The food provided in Asora is very delicious in its own way, but on this path, anything that resembles food or is food is not very tasty or helpful to me.

I know that I had lost my reason due to my hunger, but currently, that problem has been resolved, and thus I have been caring more about the taste of food lately.

Well, let me just leave it for now. I am also troubled by the reason why me and Waka are not alone on this coach.

The people who call themselves adventurers are also on this coach, and although they have said something like they will protect us, but in reality, it is us protecting them.

I feel quite uncomfortable at them disturbing the time I have with Waka alone. Tomoe-san, who is another servant of Waka, is off doing things after saying something like, "Musha Training!" or "I have to Level up!" She just jumped into the wilderness.

Well, if it was just the child Rinon accompanying us, then I wouldn't have any problem. But the other people, the adventurers who are accompanying us, have been asking us to slay that monster or this monster. After I listened to Waka and killed those monsters, they have frequently started talking to me.

After a while, Waka-sama also told me to collect parts of monsters. Waka was amazed after learning of the monsters' weaknesses, and also when Waka learned that various parts of these monsters could actually be sold in a market. Waka told me that this was training to learn how to hold back my powers after that recent incident.

But doing this is very troublesome.

I wonder if it is okay to clean up those adventurers first, so I can have a quiet time with Waka. There's Rinon's older sister Toa and... who are the others again?

Well, I understand that he is telling me this because we wrecked the base and the town along with it. But it was not entirely my fault, Tomoe-san is also at fault, though I understand I have to reflect a bit on this.

I have a habit of letting the blood get to my head easily. Thus I will obey Waka-sama for now and learn tolerance and gentle handling for now.

Well, looking back on this trip....

I am just happy to spend some time with Waka.

But I am also annoyed that we are with the adventurers.

...But my happiness from being together with Waka had overcome all of this.



But not all the people are bad, Rinon was cute and was quite interesting to talk to. Besides, this time with the adventurers will soon end when we arrive at the town.

Yes, we will soon break up with the adventurers

Fufu, how great.

I heard from Rinon that Tsige is a very big town that the previous one pales in comparison. I am sure there will be plenty of people and things in the town.

“Woooooooooow!!! It’s such a big wall!!!!” (Rinon)

Rinon, who was looking around at the scenery, looked up and yelled.

It was true, as the coach climbed the hill, a big wall came into our field of vision. Hmm, I wonder if that is Tsige. It is certainly a very big city and not anything like the town before.

It seems as though there is quite a bit of distance, it must be on top of a large hill. The large outer wall divides the town and wilderness.

The walls seemed to go on and on, stopped only at the cliffs on either side, making it impossible to pass into the city without going through the wall. So to enter Tsige you must pass through the wall otherwise you will be stuck outside.

Well for me and Waka-sama that wall is the same as water to us but taking the coach is troublesome. There is no reason to avoid proceeding through the

main passage way.

I saw Waka-sama and Rinon talking to each other a little. I let out a breath and sigh. I can finally see the end of this journey.

I have to endure a little more.

“Well, I hope every trip was this easy and comfortable. I can even eat while we are still in the coach.” (Toa)

It seems that Rinon older sister also joined in the conversation. I am truly up to my neck with these adventurers, I have to endure just a bit longer then I will have Waka-sama to myself again.

“Onii-chan, there’s something in the front!” (Rinon)

Tch!

Rinon do not trouble Waka with this petty matter, I would have finished it off before you would have even noticed or reported to him.

“Waka-sama, it is over there.” (Mio)

Since I have no choice, I reported the situation to Waka-sama. I pointed at the direction and informed him.

Ah, another annoyance to impede my time with Waka.

Waka-sama confirms the situation and I also notice the annoyance to figure out whether it was ants or bees.

If it ants....it had better not be the one who melted my kimono. I will crush it to pieces.

There is a bee that is in a different color from the rest, but it does not matter to me. I hope Waka-sama will not tell me to handle them gently again. I see the adventurer saying something to him, are they perhaps.....

[Mio, I am counting on you] (Makoto)

As I thought.

“Waka-sama, those ants melted a part of my kimono before, I would prefer to avoid them.” (Mio)

I show him the missing part on the sleeve that I am concerned about.

I ask Waka to leave this one for now although the sleeve wasn't the problem.

[Mio, don't worry I will fix that for you when we get to town, I will do something special as well, but for now, please.] (Makoto)

“Very well, I have no choice....” (Mio)

Since it was a order from Waka-sama...I have to have patience.

“Mio-sama, please leave the blades of ants!”

Prick.

I heard something else.

“Please don’t crush the ruby eye head!”

“Also obtain a feather of the ruby eye...”

Another prick.

I got another prick in my head.

.....Of course

Waka-sama has hardly needed to fight anything during this journey and enemies of that level will not even warm him up. I have decided.

“...Waka-sama” (Mio)

[What is it Mio] (Makoto)

“I don’t want to do it.” (Mio)

[Mio, what do you mean?] (Makoto)

“Every single, every time, every monster.... Every time aim for that place or get the material! I have endured it for too long and have reached my limit!”

(Mio)

[But, Mio you understand those might be valuable materials and this will help with controlling your power?] (Makoto)

“I have complete control over my power right now, this will be good for Waka-sama’s training so please take over!” (Mio)

I have to get this off my chest and have him listen to my request from time to time. For the most part it’s not like we will use those materials thus why do I have to kill with caution? I believe that Waka-sama is perfectly able to handle this with great mastery. I saw Waka-sama take out his bow and arrow from underneath the bed. I put Rinon on my lap and showed that I had no intention of moving.

\*\*\*\*\*

Beyond my wildest imagination, the city of Tsige was full of people. The city was full of noise and the streets were crowded with humans and other beings. The adventurers that we were traveling with had to report to the guild, thus we split up.

Waka-sama and I were walking through the streets.

“Waka-sama, what is that?” (Mio)

[Grilled skewers? We still have some time until dinner, let’s get some.]  
(Makoto)

“Yes!” (Mio)

We ate food at various stalls and enter some shops from the aroma they gave off. This is bliss.

[Everything I see is very different. I do not see myself getting tired from just looking at each and every store.] (Makoto)

Waka-sama seems to enjoy looking at the stores and then asking them what kind of goods they are selling. It was the first time for me in this town as well, but I believe Waka-sama is concerned with another matter entirely, he is looking around in an inspection fashion.

“Waka-sama, do you plan to open a shop here?” (Mio)

[Yeah, for the time being I do. The competition looks really fierce and they seem to have every kind of good here to sell, so I am worried about what to sell.] (Makoto)

“Any shop you create I will help with all abilities” (Mio)

[Thank you Mio.] (Makoto)

If possible, I hope Waka-sama creates a shop selling food. But for things like competition to worry Waka-sama is meaningless. Competition only happens if there is another shop, but if those things disappear then the problem is resolved. Every shop Waka-sama creates will thrive no matter what.

“Hmm? Waka-sama, I smell something odd.” (Mio)

[True?] (Makoto)

It was an odd smell, but it was not a smell I have smelled for the first time. Yes I remember this smell, it was from a...

“Yes, look Waka-sama, it is a dwarven Workshop!” (Mio)

[You’re right, I wonder if they are have a weapons craftsman, I feel like I want to see it, let’s go.] (Makoto)

“I hope there is something interesting.” (Mio)

[I wonder what level of equipment they can make.] (Makoto)

When entering the street with the craftsmen shops, we entered a slightly different type of atmosphere than before. You can see them working from outside and hear the clanking of metal. The weapons they were making looked delicious, I like meat and vegetables more but weapons have a different kind of taste. I will go see the elder dwarfs after this.

“The shops seem to be popular, but the craftsmanship is disappointing.” (Mio)

[Elders are that much superior, I wonder if I wanted to make an arm’s shop, would I have to talk to the person that is in charge of this street. I don’t see many shops with names.] (Makoto)

“I am pretty sure there is a guild that also manages this section of business as

well.” (Mio)

Waka looked at me and nodded.

[I see, very true, it would not be strange for guild to oversee this section of business as well. Mio you are amazing, I forgot about it totally.]

“I only think it is organized like this.” (Mio)

[I think we should be able to find the craftsman guild somewhere on this street. I want to know of the place before going back] (Maktoto)

“Yes, let’s find it before heading back. Oh Waka-sama! Look at the sign over there.” (Mio)

[Sign? Oh you mean that. That is a name of a company, not a sign for the guild....hmm it says it is Hanza company. I wonder if it handles armor.] (Makoto)

“Maybe so.....Waka-sama that must be it!” (Mio)

[Oh, that one...yeah this is it. Nice Mio, I see it is not that far and is bigger than the adventurer guild they have.....I wonder if they keep materials and things?] (Makoto)

Waka-sama stopped and started to look around, he looked at the guilds and the workshops that were in the street. I believe that Waka-sama is interested in many things and wants to see and learn a lot of things as well. It was the same when we were looking at the shops and stalls.



[Ok Mio, this should be enough, we still have time and there is no need to do all the work right now. Let's go back to the inn and wait until dinner with Rinon and the others.] (Makoto)

"Yes, since they were such a bother to me and Waka-sama, I hope they give us enjoyable food to repay us." (Mio)

[Somehow, my instinct tells me that adventurers know most of delicious shops in the city, so it is fine to get your expectations up] (Makoto)

"Yes, then I shall increase my expectations." (Mio)

While we return and wait for Rinon and the rest to contact us, a adventurer who happens to know them said we should head to this shop. What poor communication skills, they could have contacted us sooner and then took us directly to the shop.

The streets became dark as night set in, we walked to an area with large eating establishments. The shop they told us to come to had a certain type of atmosphere.

[Great Meat, the name is short and straight to the point.] (Makoto)

"Great Meat, I wonder if it's the self-confidence that the cook has?" (Mio)

[The name is good and the atmosphere I get from the shop is also fine, let's go in.] (Makoto)

“Yes.” (Mio)

After a brief exchange, we enter the shop. We see Rinon and the others with her, around a round table. Everyone gets up and welcomes us with a smile. It should be like this, after all the work you had me do.

I would've cared about that if I didn't see all the food lined up on the table. Yes, yes, looks like my expectations have been fulfilled. Everything looks very good.....

I saw them continue to smile but then heard Waka-sama shout something and point to a particular dish. It seemed to be a big meat with a bone. I wonder if that is his target. Waka-sama seems to be charmed by that meat and looked at it with great astonishment.

If it is that delicious, I must try it quickly!

“Well, a toast to meeting Raidou-dono and Mio-sama. Cheers!!” (Everyone besides the main two)

When the meal started, without a single moment to lose Waka-sama quickly indulges himself in the meat afterwards he stopped and then quickly continued again. Waka-sama that meat must be very good!

Waka-sama ordered many other dishes and drinks to accompany the food. I drank the drinks but it was somewhat lacking but the food was seemed to be quite good from Waka-sama's expressions.

I also ordered some food and started eating. Of course the first thing I went for was the meat. The taste....it was shockingly delicious. My favorite food may be Waka-sama's blood but this meat's fragrance that gives off; the texture are all exquisite. This food is able to enter the top 5 food I have eaten in all my life.

Waka-sama kept ordering food and I was also eating various things that was on the menu. It was amazing how many flavors there were for the meat. I think of Hyumans as nothing but useless beings but this dish is amazing.

This dish to say it was made by magic is not far from the truth. I was very impressed by the food but also by how fast I was eating the food and vegetables. I seemed to have accumulated quite a bit of dishes at the table. I think that may have been quite rude of me however I do not regret a thing I did today.

I devoted myself to the dinner and was able to conquer the entire menu. I thank you all for this fine meal. The liquor was quite bad but the food was fulfilling and met my expectations.

I would have no complaints if there was stronger liquor but this did not come true. I have tried the strongest liquor in the shop it did not satisfy me and give the good punch I was looking for.

Though it is regrettable that the liquor was weak, the food was quite diverse and delicious thus I shall leave it at that.

Waka-sama seemed to be talking to the adventurers and playing with them. I think Toa did a fine job at the end, it was a very good banquet.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next day

Waka-sama and I went to Asora to see how the construction work was progressing and to receive a report from the Highland Orc Ema. After listening to the report I was supposed to go to my people and receive a report about the surrounding in Asora but the leader of the Elder Dwarfs came and we had to meet him first.

We ordered various armaments from him. I use a fan and wear a kimono thus I really do not have any armor or weapons so I requested him to make another kimono the same as this one with stronger material. Waka-sama seems to have chosen a coat that will give him a better performance at using his magical power.

I wonder why Waka-sama wanted something like that, it seemed to be quite complicated but it was not necessary for him to have armor like that is it? The elder Dwarf seemed like they wanted to repay Waka-sama somehow thus I kept this thought to myself.

After sending them off, we went to hear the report from my people the Arke. Fufu, I was with Waka-sama for a very long time.

I do not know how long this day or time will last but I wish for it to last forever.

We received reports of various different things that grow and reside in Asora. Wood, Ores, Plants, Fruits, and Mushrooms. Waka-sama when hearing about mushrooms looked very strange and had a complicated expression telling the Arke to be careful around them.

I wonder why, I said that it is not like they would die if they ate one. Both the Arke and Waka gave me a weird look.

“Mio, Mushrooms are very dangerous, I don’t want any of you to get hurt so be extra careful around them.” (Makoto”

“It may seem to be tangy, but that is actually a level of poison that will make you vomit and have diarrhea repeatedly. It will feel kinda like a squeeze to the stomach but it is actually a blow to the stomach and will cause you to die. There is bad smell that comes from you when you die like that and it is not instant death either.” (Makoto)

“I do not know why but the mushroom and herbs here are much stronger than the ones outside, so please don’t put anything in your mouth Mio.” (Makoto)

Because I said something strange I got sermon from Waka.

Fuu

Waka-sama left now and this is the data room that Tomoe made to record all of Waka-sama memories. I can understand the language Waka-sama speaks in these data crystal so I was asked by Waka to organize the data reported by the Arke, Lizards and orcs.

Originally Tomoe was supposed to handle this so I do not have any motivation to do this. Ah, I want to walk with Waka-sama more in Tsige.

“Oh, Mio, you’re here, well then....oh here it is, The Mito gate, the old public.”

(Tomoe)

“Tomoe-san, if you are back, should you not report to Waka?” (Mio)

“Don’t say something so stiff, are you not here?” (Tomoe)

“I am only here because you were not!” (Mio)

Seriously!

If you have arrived Tomoe then please say so!

In the first place, I couldn’t accompany Waka because you were not here!

“All right, all right! I will report to Waka after I confirm something.” (Tomoe)

“I hope you receive a scolding from Waka.” (Mio)

Well it is good for me if Tomoe’s image in Waka falls, then I will increase in his mind and continue to stay by his side. I didn’t say any more to her and returned to watching the memories of Waka, the memory of a mysterious place and of a strange knowledge.

I know that Waka has a secret but I do not think he will tell me right now. I hope someday that he will tell me everything. Since I hope for this to happen, I must increase the trust Waka has in me.

Hmm?

What is this I wonder?

The picture is moving , it is quite interesting, it is like a theater except in picture format.

Children are most pleased by this kinds of things.

.....

It was really funny, let me see another one

.....

I was quite amazed by the moving picture. By the time the story finished, an entire 30 minutes had past and my hands had stopped. I was completely absorbed by this. I quickly try to find another one but I cannot seem to find one.

No, I must stop, I have to do the task that Waka told me to do.

But....

I will only watch one more, then resume my task. But finding another one is tough....oh yes right she was here.

“Tomoe-san.” (Mio)

“Tomoe-San!” (Mio)

What is it Mio, I am busy at the moment.” (Tomoe)

“Come here for a second.” (Mio)

“Wait just a moment, it is the important part where they find the killer in the magistrate house.” (Tomoe)

“Please find the continuation of this.” (Mio)

“What!?” (Tomoe)

“I like to see more of this!” (Mio)

“Even if you tell me that....” (Tomoe)

“If you do not find me the continuation, I will disturb you every single second.” (Mio)

“What are a kid? Fine....it’s over there rolling.” (Tomoe)

“Thank you.” (Mio)

“Ok...now back to the climax of Musashi versus the Killer.” (Tomoe)



I listened to Tomoe and discovered the continuation of the story. I watched until Waka came back.

How scary is it to be hooked onto something?

.....If Tomoe-san had told me sooner without complaining then I could have seen another episode.

# One step ahead of Darkness *Lime*

*Between chapters 34-43*

=====

“Ah, hello, do you know who accepted that request?” (Lime)

“I don’t know, but I do know a little about the situation. It seems that the request for the ruby eye was taken.” (Adventurer A)

“Can you tell me a little more about the person who accepted it?”

“All I know is that it was a guy. The request form was gone when I arrived, and the receptionist said that it was a guy who took it” (Adventurer A)

There are many taverns that open at noon in this city.

The city is very convenient for adventurers, and as there are at least a few thousand adventurers in this city at any given time, and the demand for taverns is high, a lot of common people open taverns to make a living.

Several Adventurers gather in the daytime to exchange information.

“Who the hell could take such a...hey... hey! Those guys are the ones who came back from the wilderness... . Do you know anything about them?” (Lime)

“Nah. They made a lot of noise yesterday, but today they said they were off to sell the materials they got on their travels. They also seemed like they were preparing for something or other... well, you know that request was an S rank so those people could not accepted even if they wanted to.” (Tavern head)

“... dammit, not a single person knows much about situation of that group, or the person who accepted the request. Hey guys, I want you to spread out and search, look for anyone who may know something and if they do, buy the info and bring it back to me, I will take care of any amount you guys can’t pay.”  
(Lime)

“OK. I’ll go out and see if I can get anything out of the guys who came back.”  
(Lime’s acquaintance)

“OK, I am counting on you.” (Lime)

The guy goes out of the tavern.

He is a really reliable guy.

I know he has been an adventurer for a long time in Tsige.

But ... who are you dude?

There is nobody in this city who does not know about the request posted by the Rembrandt company, and nobody touches it at all.

The request is hard and the prey is really rare. You also need skill to kill it in just the right way, the ruby eye has to die in a very specific manner to obtain those materials.

I am trying to think, is there such a guy in this town?

Nope, there is no one who is that good in this town.

I would definitely remember a guy like that, as he’d be the highest level in this place.

That means he must’ve come very recently.

“Then Lime-san, please excuse us. We’ll check in town and in the guild to see if we can get any more info.” (Lime’s gang)

“OK.” (Lime)

“Let’s go guys.” (Lime’s gang)

The people I was drinking with stood up and left the tavern.

They are also adventurers.

I am the boss of the adventurers in this town.

Well there are other factions but, I am the head of the largest one.

I'm not a guild official, just an adventurer.

The highest level adventurer in Tsige.

I am the adventurers' face in this town.

"Sorry 'bout this but, look for the level and rank of the people who came into the city recently. Let me know if they have someone who is really high level."  
(Lime)

"OK, please leave it to us, everyone else also understands." (Lime's gang)

"Sorry guys for asking this, I know you have to take requests as well." (Lime)

"Please do not worry. I 'got a rough idea as to why you are doing this and do not think it is bad." (Lime's gang)

"Here. Take this to cover any expenses that may arise." (Lime)

"I cannot take this." (Lime gang)

"Take it, I know you guys made a mistake in your last job and broke your weapons." (Lime)

"... thank you very much." (Lime's gang)

All of them left the tavern, and I felt really lonely for some reason.

"Damn, Rembrandt! How much will you do until you are satisfied, or did you already kill all those people who cursed you? ... How far will you abuse us, you bastard?!" (Lime)

The Rembrandt company.

The way they do business is something I ain't ever gonna like.

I'm good with businesses that sell things to make a profit, and make requests that pays us the right amount.

But this guy's work is always the same. Going to really dangerous places and endangering our lives for nothin'.

This shit-head has never stopped, and even after complaining, still doesn't stop.

I took action against that bastard.

But even now, that shit-headed bastard still hasn't changed a goddamn thing.

I ain't gonna doubt that the bastard has figured it out....

The guy we hired to do it said he was happy 'cause he also got a bone to pick with him.

We saw his corpse recently, it was not a pretty sight.

I'm sure that he talked about all the demands and things we wanted him to do for the fix.

But even knowing about the illness in his family he still hasn't moved.

Our intel from the company is not coming through, and from the mansion it is mute as well.

I can't tell what action that bastard will take.

"Aren't you going a little too wild, Lime?" (Lime's friend)

"...Oh, you...what are you doing here?" (Lime)

"Come on, this is just a greeting. I've got valuable info about that request, so I came here quickly." (Lime's friend)

"I don't trust shady people." (Lime)

"Now, now. No reason to make me angry. I like that bastard Rembrandt about as much you do, that's why I'm helping." (Lime's friend)

The shady person that came in to talk is the number two adventurer in the city.

She is a front guy, with a lot of powerful techniques.

I don't have a fixed party, so I usually team up with her and go have some fun.

If there is something wrong in the wild, it is usually me and her fixing it.

...The ruby eye needs a direct shot to the chest to get it successfully, so it can't be this girl as she crushes them.

I know a lot of adventurers that can secretly accept requests.

This girl in front of me is not that type of person, who would come to me after betraying me.

When we are this high level, we do not need too much money, so being bought with money is hard.

It is faster to earn money yourself and we are too young to be exclusive to a company.

I know that butler over at Rembrandt used to be an adventurer, but he's kind of old.

"OK, will you cooperate with me for a while?" (Lime)

"OK. I've also mastered a new magic so I want your help to break it in. I am working cheap for now so, buy my help at 1% of the normal price." (Number two)

"OK, I will take you up on that." (Lime)

"Well then, let's drink to our friendship shall we?" (Number two.)

"...OK, let's drink." (Lime)

OK for now, the most important thing is to determine the one who accepted the request.

\*\*\*\*\*

Very suspicious.

In the evening, I listen to the report from my people and a specific person caught my attention.

A woman in black.

It seems that she was dressed in some rare clothes that they've never seen before, and had like a short bob of hair.

Hair and eyes, both black.

This woman is obviously not from here.

Seems like she came with them back from the wild.

Seems to be a member of a company.

The leader of the company is a little guy who wears a mask all the time.

The guy is nothing, the woman is the problem.

Someone who had direct contact with her said that she is strong enough to be in the top 10 of the city.

This news makes me smile as an adventurer, but frown as someone against Rembrandt.

It was unbelievable at first but it fit all the conditions of the request.

We need to monitor this person and maybe give her a little talking to.

"We will act tomorrow. Monitor this person for now, and keep watch on Rembrandt's mansion and shops." (Lime)

"Understood" (Lime gang)

"You got the inn they are staying at?" (Lime)

“Yes, it is under the name Kuzunoha company. I’ve got the location too.”  
(Lime gang)

“Kuzunoha company huh?” (Lime)

I never heard of it.

“The leader seems to be named Raidou, he wears a mask and is small. The other person is Mio, the women in black.” (Lime’s gang)

“Raidou and Mio, even so...why a mask? It is not a costume right?” (Lime)

Mask huh, quite easy to recognize.

What the hell is he trying to hide?

An ugly wound or is he using it to fake being human?

Either way, there is a reason for using the mask.

“Also... Raidou can’t speak, he uses written words to communicate.” (Lime’s gang)

“A guy with a mask that can’t speak, it is like he wants to stand out. Does he use a pen and paper to communicate?” (Lime)

I do not feel any sympathy for this guy.

“No, I heard he uses magic to create characters in the air, he may be a merchant who is also a magician.” (Lime’s gang)

“Well there should be no problem with me here now, if it is a magic battle then I got it, no problem.” (Number two)

I am glad I bought her help.

We will surround them and then quickly attack before they are able to cast a



spell, but if they do manage to cast a spell then she will counter it with her magic. A solid plan.

OK, I think we've got a good prospect now.

We will start tomorrow.

We will keep going for some days then execute the plan.

I think it is also time to finally have a face to face with Rembrandt as well.

Every occupation needs to resolve the problems in its foundations.

Both adventurers and merchants have to do this.

If the base becomes smaller, our range of skills becomes narrow too.

He will understand the reason, I am sure of it.

Also, even if he did not do this to us, it is still his responsibility as the CEO of the Rembrandt company.

It won't be funny if the quality of adventurers fall in Tsige.

I know some strong ones are coming, but the weak ones are more than ever.

I try to earn enough to help them as well.

I'm also sure he wants to save his wife and children too.

I have the materials needed to cure them, and it is a small price for this shit to finally die down.

The women in black Mio, Raidou and Rembrandt.

I will have finally ended this feud.

\*\*\*\*\*

This could not be happening...

I couldn't believe what I heard.

The next day, we did not see the woman come out of the inn.

And as for Rembrandt, his butler invited Raidou to take a carriage to collect the rest of the materials.

Not only that.

The request to collect the eyes was already completed.

It seems Raidou took it.

The receptionist said the request was changed from S rank to special rank because he already had the materials.

How smart, I mean, how evil of him.

In other words Raidou met with Rembrandt and solved the disease curse with the elixir.

We still could not find the woman, but this situation is already an emergency to be worrying about that.

I thought nothing was gonna' happen today, but everything happened today.

I became impatient so I quickly gathered some guys and hid in the path leading towards the mansion.

It hurt my wallet a lot but it can't be helped.

"Lime, it has come... but...." (Number two)

"But?" (Lime)

It was rare for her to be nervous

I wonder what's wrong.

"The woman is here, and also some other woman who is not the alchemist is coming." (Number two)

"What, the woman in black?! She should still be at the inn! I heard from my

people just a minute ago that she did not come out.” (Lime)

“Exactly, I am confused now, what do we do?” (Number two)

“I am worried about that other person, but we know that the woman in black is bad news, I will try to strike a deal with her, and also show her what a weakling Raidou is.” (Lime)

“Strike a deal huh, hee hee.” (Number two)

“Well since, she is a bodyguard, there must be some money involved. So when the endangerment of life happens to a person they will cling to whatever there is.” (Lime)

“Ok I got it.” (Number two)

“I will try to talk to her alone, so provide some kind of life threatening situation, OK?.” (Lime)

“I will show my new trick here, a fire magic, the power is tremendous and it is quite difficult to avoid.” (Number two)

“Good.” (Lime)

Is that supposed to be a new technique?

Well I feel sorry for them.

She did not even hesitate to fire.

She started casting, and, as soon as we could see their faces, the magic circle appeared underneath and she pointed at the blue haired girl and said:

“Dead.” (Number two)

It was a clear voice that Raidou picked up on, he evaded the magic along with the black clothed one.

The blue girl just stood there.

Raidou, for a magician, has some good reflexes and fitness.

A flame whirlpool appeared from the foot of the woman and she blew up.

It was not just power, but also the heat.

We could feel it from here.

I don't think even bones will be left....

"Hmph." (Tomoe)

"What!!!!?" (Lime)

Hey, hey, come on already.

Even if I took that head-on, I will be unable to move for at least 20-30 seconds.

To just get rid of it with a flick of the hand....

Unbelievable.

I wonder if she is as strong as the woman in black?

To be a master is not as easy as some people may think.

The woman in black is dressed unusually so you can tell, but this woman is dressed in an ordinary way.

The quality of adventurers in this town is high, but not to this level.

I hope she is just strong in terms of fire attribute, and that that is why she could do that.

"She did not even use a chant, no way...." (Number two)

"Don't worry I am sure she has a talisman or something, quickly recast and attack them again." (Lime)

But....

What I said was totally... no, my thoughts of even attacking them from the very beginning were a mistake.

The woman in black followed my words and told me she would stay out of the battle.

But she also said that she was not on our side, it was just that she didn't need to help.

And as she said, the result was defined before it even started.

I thought we could do it if she stayed out of it.

How wrong I was.

Raidou barely attack us but from what I could see he did not even need to attack.

We surround them with ten times their personnel but we still got our ass handed to us.

This woman was not in the report.

She was named Tomoe apparently, and was kicking our asses like a child crushing ants.

I thought she was a goddess of war, or a lone wolf that could easily become a ranker in the guild, she also took my sword.

She took my sword and used it to make everyone faint by hitting them with the hilt.

I was speechless.

The only ones left were me, and number two.

Only two people beat the top 20 of the guild in this city.

But in reality, it was just one person who did it.

They slowly walked in front of us.

I told you that I was the highest level adventurer in Tsige.

It was somewhat of a bluff.

But I am strong enough to be not laughed at.

The woman in black smiled at me and then looked away.

My number two buddy tried to run away but was blown away by Raidou.

It was kind of funny.

I really wish Raidou would make it clear whether he is a fighter, magician or merchant!

Well, merchant is no doubt a lie.

Wow, the whole package: strong, smart and has a way with money.

Really the winner in this battle.

I am done.

“Don’t mock my hair!!!” (Tomoe)

I was told this as I was punched in the face.

The woman in the blue hair.

I don’t remember anything from there.

I remember something about her stopping my sword with her bare hand but after that, completely blank.

I woke up and saw a sword stabbed beside my face.

I was looking like a beggar. My face had that type of expression.

Right now, my mind did not have Rembrandt or anything like that but a strong desire to live.

I really wanted to live.

“Waka, so do you have something to ask?” (Tomoe)

[Why did you attack?] (Makoto)

Fortunately Raidou, got me off the execution platform by talking with me.

But in the process I was robbed of...No, I had to give them protection money for attacking them. I heard some facts afterwards that made me wanna wet my bed.

[What are you talking about, the spell casted on the Rembrandt's family is a certain death level 8.] (Makoto)

[Ok, I got it already.] (Makoto)

[Yes, please prepare someone to help with the treatment.] (Makoto)

[Sorry about the dagger, that was expensive right? We will pay some reparations for that.] (Makoto)

The letters in the air disappeared as Raidou kept talking.

I am thankful they will pay for the sword but I am way beyond caring about that.

I did not know that happened to Rembrandt's.

I wondered what he was so concerned for.

I told Raidou I am thankful for the sword but he did not respond and left with the two woman.

Man! I'm so glad he is nice.

I guess because he has a disease, he hates illness of all kinds, that is why he was so pissed off when hearing about that.

I thought he would be more haughty, but he was an alright guy.

...Nope, there is no way I can think that.

The inside of my head is a mess.

My adventurer life ended after this incident.

I said goodbye to all my friends and gang and retired.

Adventurer Lime Latte's life ended, but I never, in my life, thought I would end up working for that certain guy with a mask.



# The forest Oni meets Makoto *Aqua*

*Between chapters 48-52*

=====

We lost.

Completely, it was an utter annihilation.

It was not numbers that beat us, but only one guy.

We didn't have a tough battle with him or anything, it was more like... nothing worked against him.

We met two people who wanted our rare plants.

It was a man with a mask and a woman in black.

They confessed that they needed the plant to make some medicine, but many Hyumans have said the same thing and had evil intentions. They had confused my partner Eris with their lies several times.

Naturally we decided to capture the two, but three other hyumans came at us seeing the colony of ambrosia.

These weak people have been able to enter the village because lately the barrier we have placed around has weakened for unknown reasons.

The ambrosia they speak of is the red ginseng, but this is a precious resource and we cannot give it to them.

Many people have been illegally collecting these from us, and we will get back them back, but first let's stop these fools.

Those were my thoughts as we started to engage in battle.

But man... was I wrong, neither my attacks or Eris' magic was working on the masked man.

We got blocked by something or other every single time.

I have no idea what magic or thing he is using to stop our attacks, but I was scared out of my wits seeing that kind of defense.

My special attack shot arrow or Eris' magic interwoven was completely ineffective.

We were completely sealed and shut out.

I wonder if they had a fallout or something because the masked man also attacked the three people as well.

The warriors of our village sometimes get overconfident, or are unlucky, and lose to the adventurers.

If that happens, we invite the people to our village and let them meet our leader, the forest Oni Head, who is our teacher as well.

But me and Eris have never had to experience this type of feeling.

This was humiliating.

I never imagined how painful it is to lose and have to guide the winners to the village.

The masked man Raidou tied us up with rope and restricted our movements.

We were tied up from our chest to our waist. The woman with the man Raidou, called Mio, also followed us to the village.

Eris talked with Raidou frequently in an attempt to get information but we got really exhausted from just hearing him talk.

At sometime Eris gets pulled into his pace and gives away our information.  
Eris!!!

However, I trust Eris, as sometimes Eris has these moments of intuition that always seem to help.

...This was not one of those times, because we got so tired from talking and walking.

Fortunately we did not encounter any demons and arrived at the village safely.

There was a look of disdain from the people of our village towards us.

We had no choice, OK?

We would have died against this freak.

I understand why they are looking at us like that though, as we are now asking our head to deal with our problem.

Damn it! It is so humiliating.

After guiding Raidou and Mio to our head, we looked at each other and both sighed.

"Akua, do you feel like if we fought against him once more we would win?"  
(Eris) "Nope, it would be exactly the same. I don't even know why we lost, so... to even start making a plan is impossible. I really do not want to go and report it to teacher." (Akua) "LSIA." (Eris)

"LSIA?... No, Eris we will not leave or skip. If it is master, then when he finds us after we skip we will have even more hell." (Akua) "Fine, ...By the way LSIA means "Let's skip it all", I am surprised you were able to figure it out Akua."  
(Eris) "Duh! We've been friends forever, I know exactly what you were thinking, but, I wonder what kind of punishment he will give us... come on, let's go report." (Akua) "I really don't want any kind of training that is life-threatening."  
(Eris) "Haa...well, it is not like I don't understand your feelings, but avoiding it is impossible." (Akua) "That's true, hmmm. Yes, Eris has a new plan, isn't Raidou, who is a freak, the reason why we lost?" (Eris) "Well... yes." (Akua)

"So don't you think that if we took him directly to teacher, and showed how much of a freak he is, that we would get a lighter punishment or even... scot free?" (Eris) "Take Raidou to teacher... Well he would be happy if we don't waste any more resources on useless banquets for strangers." (Akua) "Right? There is also a chance that teacher may not be able to handle Raidou, so he would have to do the metamorphosis thing." (Eris) " Well since we're already at rock bottom, we've got nothing to lose." (Akua) "Yeah, I knew you would agree. Akua is the best friend any person could have." (Eris) "OK, first let's waste time for a little while because I want to change these clothes." (Akua) "OK, Buddy." (Eris)

Me and Eris decided to make teacher Mondo meet Raidou directly to have an excu... reason for losing the fight.

I know a defeat is a defeat.

That part will not disappear, along with humiliation of course.

However, we can escape punishment if Master sees how much of a freak Raidou is and then we will not look as incompetent to him.

I know that Raidou will immediately be assessed highly by our teacher.

I also know that no one in our village, other than teacher, is able to defeat Raidou.

I return home and change my clothes in hopes that Eris' plan succeeds.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well....

The plan was a success, in some aspects.

Master did not wait for us to come to him, he came to us and immediately grabbed Raidou's hands.

We stiffened, as we were going to see the Master's special technique.

However, there was no change to Raidou.

Mio, on the other hand, was very angry and quickly kicked Master out of the room. She kicked him so hard that a hole in the wall was made, and he left just as fast as he had entered.

Well to sum it up, our master also lost to Raidou and Mio.

I did not take Raidou to our master but I am sure that Master does realize how strong Raidou and Mio are.

So...ummm... Well.

We succeed in getting out of the punishment.

However, our master lost in a second against them, and it happened so quickly none of us could've reacted.

Eris and I let out a weird shriek when it happened.

Mio toppled Master in a second.

No, maybe it was an order from Raidou?

Our master did grab his hands so he could've signaled in some other way.

And also, the fact that master can't win against them from the front was shocking.

...That last part maybe a bit of a stretch, to be honest.

But the tree punishment magic did not work on Raidou. This magic is the essence of the Forest Oni.

Who the hell is Raidou.

I get the same feeling as I get from Eris.

Yes, that feeling.

I cannot feel fear or anxiety, only friendliness.

This is the village of forest Oni.

One step away from the end of the world.

We live without mercy because if we give mercy in such a place, we die.

We live without mistakes, but if someone does make a mistake, than what only awaits them is death.

When we feel an uncomfortable feeling from anyone, we take action, but I get none of that from Raidou, no fear, impatience, hostility, or even tension.

It is more as if I am at home.

It was the same when I was fighting him.

A mighty dragon, long ago, created the barrier surrounding our village, but like everything, time has withered the barrier away, and humans have been able to enter, and we've fought them a lot more than before.

But I have never met a presence like Raidou.

...Is he a guest who the barrier itself has invited.

Eris has her intuition, which allows us to get out of tough situations a lot, but most of them are useless.

Somehow, from Raidou, I get the feeling of someone who will be an acquaintance for a long time.

If you ask me why, it could only be intuition.

I trust Eris's intuition a lot, so I have to trust my own right?

How stupid I am.

There is no way Raidou will live any longer than this.

...Hope you enjoy the last moments of your life Raidou, I will truly miss you.

We have a special treasure that all you Hyumans like.

I did not give any reason as to why I wanted him gone, just that I trusted my ancestors a lot and thought it was only right for him to die.

"Oh, Akua, I found Master." (Eris)

"Is he smoking while still upside down?" (Akua)

We ran to Master and saw him upside down, smoking.

We were glad he was safe.

He looked alright, without any injuries.

"I wonder if it feels good, looking up at the sky after losing a battle. Master is silent as well. I wonder why he did not become a tree, did it now work?" (Eris)

"There is no way that's possible, Master always said that that technique is quite hard, and that sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't." (Akua) "I truly hope so. Wait I am getting another revelation. What? I am going to spend the rest of my life with the Raidou gang? What? Really? Man, how am I going live now?" (Eris) "Eris is becoming more like the usual Eris, I see. Eris, you do know that your revelation doesn't tell you the entire story, right? It is a 50% thing, and I am sure that this one is the 50% that is wrong." (Akua) I am declaring it right now.

It is a fact that Eris' intuitions and revelations for the past few months have been on point.

We've both gotten that feeling that we are going to spend a long time with Raidou.

Now, I am getting worried.

"I'm sorry if I was being rude, Eris." (Akua)

"I was just trying to praise you." (Akua)

"Poo! Regardless of whether my Revelation is right or not, we have to prepare for today's banquet, right? We have to get the green liquor." (Eris) "Well isn't that good for you." (Akua)

I wonder will it be alright?

If I do spend a long time with Raidou from now on.

That means I will also be with Eris.

I will have to look after him for a long time.

I cannot handle that by myself.

While thinking this, we rushed to our master's side.

# Shiki (Lich) Meets Makoto *Shiki*

*Between chapters 54-58*

=====

Now that I think about it, how long has it been?

I used to be hyuman once, and the time required to be reincarnated as a lich was very long, and I.... Let's see... in my explanation I may have been vague about some things, please pay no heed to it.

The attachments, preferences and memories of my time as a hyuman has been long gone, and has since faded away by the passage of time.

I do not mind these losses and I do not fear them.

This was the price to pay for a longer time than a regular hyuman, I accepted it before getting reincarnated.

What I am seeking, from my years of research, is the upper tribe of hyumans, the people who are able to transfer from world to world without care, the Graunt.

I have been researching these Graunt since a time long past, but now that I think about that, it was very foolish, as the existence of these beings is a mystery.

Moreover, the people of the church, who are led by the goddess, are always interfering with me and my research.

They treated me as a heretic and tried to kill me many times now.

However, because they were trying so hard to keep this a secret, I became convinced that the existence of the Graunt was a fact.

"I cannot recall what I looked like when I was hyuman, but I want to see you again. I did not listen to anyone, and told myself it was exciting, and got out."  
(Shiki)



...?

What?

What are you?

Oh.

Yes, now I remember, you are my best friend.

A man obsessed with the possibility of another world.

Though it was absurd to think of things like that, this friend of mine is different. He always screamed and ranted about it.

He was a man with a friendly personality, someone who is very enthusiastic about his research, a man quite different from myself.

I want to see him again.

I will forever keep his memory in my heart.

For me, whose memory is withering with the passage of time, it is now necessary to keep a notebook to remember all the names from my life. This memory must always be kept within my heart.

Otherwise I would be no different than a mindless zombie.

I have to be careful and not lose my mind.

I can still proceed with my research and investigation, even in this state.

But without my purpose, all of that will be meaningless.

It is because I have not forgotten my life, and the reason I live, that I still pursue the truth.

My reincarnation as a Lich gives me an eternity.

It has released me from the that that would kill all things, even the gods, time.

But it is not without it's disadvantages.

I have researched it, and a Lich feeds off the hatred it had when it was alive, and thus starts to forget his or her memories. This is a certainty, and will apparently happen to every single Lich.

I wanted more time to complete my research, thus I became a Lich.

I did not have hatred from when I was alive.

So I thought I would be unaffected.

But I was wrong, there are no exceptions.

Hatred that has accumulated from when you became a Lich also affects the mind.

Once you are conscious of the hatred there is no escape or release from it.

I've since understood why this was such a forbidden technique, and why they had prohibited it.

Over time, even though in the beginning I had no jealousy towards the living, I eventually started to want warmth and the light they have in their eyes. I knew that this was the forced jealousy created by the reincarnation.

This was a ridiculous impulse.

I can control it to some extent now, but before I always got these impulses that would drive me to a need to kill people.

But in the end, I realized that I had no reason to endure this pain and let it happen.

I just counted the deaths as unfortunate to encounter me.

"I wonder why, I keep remembering about the past, the me who was fixated on ethics in my research." (Shiki)

The words I said for some reason felt warm.

These felt as if they were not my own words.

Well, I guess that would be only natural.

As I have to use magic to even make my voice came out from my body.

However, this is something I've not felt in years.

I am trying to think of the cause.

I think that it is him.

When I came upon the village of Forest Oni, I saw their secret ability called the tree punishment.

I obtained a sample and brought it for my research.

I stayed in this village researching this ability for over ten years.

The ability to turn organisms into trees in a short period of time. This happens through a reaction with the target's soul.

It is a very strong and unique ability.

I researched it, and felt my heart dance as I did, but as time went on, I discovered that this had nothing to do with the Graunt and would not advance my research into them.

My time spent here was in vain.

But as I got ready to leave, I met a boy in the village.

He was together with a woman.

This woman was wearing very unusual clothes, but other than her strength, I had no other interest in her.

I believe that she is a demon who is disguised as a Hyuman.

But that boy is different.

That boy is a person.

I felt something different about him, different from any other hyuman I've seen before.

This village of the Forest Oni is in the wilderness, this area is also called the end of the world. It is not a place a boy his age should be at.

But from him I do not feel any fear or anxiety.

This boy is abnormal.

He may be a clue to my long pursuit of the Graunts I know that what I may seem odd or illogical as a researcher, but I believe that this feeling is called intuition.

I have decided.

My next research subject will be that boy.

The possibility that he will have the answer is quite low, but even if this is a waste of time, it is fine.

Research and studies are all done until you get a inspiration of some kind that will let you break through the bottleneck.

I just need to go at this steadily, and slowly.

Even without that inspiration, all the work and effort will eventually lead to somewhere.

Someday I will reach my goal of becoming a Graunt.

Hmm... as long as I stay as I am now.

And as long as I do not give up.

I will find a way. There is no rush, I have all eternity to find the answer.

\*\*\*\*\*

...A feast was held in the village.

I did a surprise attack on the boy, Raidou, and had chosen this opportunity to abduct him.

Raidou did not have any weapons at the feast.

I had first kidnapped a Forest Oni who was a demon in disguise, sucked out all the life energy and used him to quietly wait for the opportunity where Raidou was at his weakest. I also used this demon to amplify my magic.

For some reason the woman in black was absent from the feast, but this would work in my favor.

Raidou, after my surprise attack, was now carrying a Forest Oni on his back.

The situation that had been created made it an easy fight for me... or it should have been.

Raidou who saw me, the person who launched the surprise attack, was calm.  
His face was the same, no fear or anxiety in it.

I began talking to Raidou and told him my name when he asked. He was quite a friendly person.

I combined all the magical power and madness within me, and all the negative emotions that were in the air right now into a single spell and released it at him. This technique has never failed me and I have been undefeated ever since I had created this technique.

My strategy progressed into its final stages.

With this spell, Raidou will now become a doll who will experience the same nightmare over and over again. He will stop moving and completely become lifeless.

I will take him and bring him back to my lab to study him.

Like every time before, a perfect procedure.

However, why am I the one on the floor?

I try to remember what happened, but no matter what I cannot seem to accept it.

My technique was beaten by something.

Afterwards Raidou launched a spell with a magic language that even I have never heard before, and casted it much quicker than me.

He had made magic that I've never seen before.

It was like a black tooth. It completely overwhelmed my technique.

A language I've never heard before, a magic I have never seen before.

I am so confused at this boy.

I could not respond to his attack.

Raidou's spell did not stop at my technique but went even further.

It started to come towards me, and attack me.

The barriers I made did not help one bit.

Eventually, I lost completely.

It took him a second to beat me.

I'm quite sure only a second passed in real time as well.

I lost consciousness and when I woke up, it was in a strange room.

I was in a room with Raidou and the black haired woman, Mio.

There was also another woman with blue hair here.

Both of them were wearing strange clothes and seemed to be Raidou's subordinates.

After their conversation ended, they looked at me and as they saw I was a wake, we began to discuss things.

About the Forest Oni.

The fight.

About where I am.

The boy said that his name is not Raidou but Makoto, Raidou is an alias.

Apparently the Forest Oni would have given him some book and that itself was a misunderstanding.

And....

A Graunt.

...I finally got the answer to my pursuit of the Graunt.

A lady by the name of Tomoe, who I met for the first time told me about it.

Tomoe is one of the three higher ranked superior dragons, being second only to the Mirage dragon.

She, with an identity like that, has no reason to lie to a Lich.

Apparently she had signed a ruling contract with Makoto, and is now his follower.

I, at first, thought she was joking, but it was true.

The matter with Graunt, and now this, this day had way too many surprises.  
I was trying hard to gather and sort the information as quickly as possible.

“Hey, won’t you become a follower?” (Tomoe)

I could not follow them anymore.

I have played with so many lives.

Is this the feeling of becoming a doll?

It isn’t bad to experience the things you do to your enemies once in awhile.

When I heard her words I lost the ability to speak.

Too many insane things were happening at once, thus I abandoned my mind halfway through.

I will just follow them blindly for now.

I nod at Tomoe’s words.

I did not care anymore, and these people here are all capable of giving me despair far greater than anything I have ever experienced before.

When Tomoe had begun the art to become a servant I realized how powerful Raidou, no, Makoto truly was.

I was going to be in a contract as food.

This means I could only be nourishment to Makoto, and nothing else.

I did not even have the qualifications to become a slave.

This was not the desired result, thus was rejected quickly.

How fresh, to be rejected even in becoming food.

It felt strangely good.

The plan Lady Tomoe came up with was for Raidou to weaken himself, and then, for me to wear 13 rings that were blood red in color. Apparently these were rings Raidou had used to hide his magic power, but they could only contain a certain amount.

The amount of magic I get from each ring is overwhelming.

Tomoe's plan was a success, and I became a servant to this boy, who in no way looked like someone who was going to be the absolute master of a Lich.

"Wow!" (Makoto)

"What is it Waka? This is the third time you've done this, it is not painful anymore, thus, it is easier to accomplish." (Tomoe)

"Oh." (Shiki)

Only for a moment.

I felt the power of Makoto in just one moment, all the power he had that I could not sense before.

It was not just overwhelming, but almost infinite.

It was like a waterfall that had no end, and just went on forever.

I wonder if this is because of the contract?

This feeling in my chest... surely it is...?

My chest?

"What is wrong with my chest? It's hot!" (Shiki)

I felt heat in my chest that should not be there.

The light from the contract magic climaxed and finished. The appearance of Makoto's magical power could only be seen as a silhouette.

But, there is no need to worry about that due to the nostalgic heat and beat that I feel from my chest.



I could not figure out what was happening to me.

I could not bear it any longer, thus my knees gave out.

I crouched as I pressed my right “hand” against my “beating chest” while “breathing” heavily.

“Oh, so this is your form?” (Tomoe)

“Well, I wonder, is it his former appearance when he was hyuman?” (Mio)

The voice of the women rang in my “Eardrums”.

I finally understood what had happened to my body.

I could not believe it.

I had regained the dazzling life that I had thrown away.

I checked everywhere on my body, it felt warm.

I grabbed my chest with my right hand, and I felt the heartbeat again.

“This beat, it is the beat of life!!!” (Shiki)

I unintentionally let out a voice.

I looked up and saw the figure of Makoto...no, Makoto-sama.

I felt that I was being watched by him, and a pulling sensation towards him.

Of course, I have to stand up.

I’ve not yet greeted him.

I can later check out my body any number of times.

I have to first greet my master.

“Makoto-sama.” (Shiki)

A person who got a superior dragon to obey him, and gave life to a undead.

A human, the origin of all humans in this world. They are really of a different standard.

I felt excitement and thrill from the blood that was flowing through my veins.

I finally understood the value of a physical body. It truly is how they say, you'll only know the value of something once you've lost it.

Makoto-sama accepted me with open arms.

I am convinced now.

I am now reborn.

My superiors, whose knowledge and strength I do not know, and the strength of my master that is bottomless.

My quest for the Graunt will not stop.

But, I believe that I'll be able to find the answer if I stay with him, and soon the world will know what Graunt truly are.

“What?!!” (Tomoe)

I, whose mind was still wandering, was awoken by Tomoe-dono's voice.

An intense light came from the direction she was looking at.

An impact could be felt immediately from that direction.

A wave of magic power passed through the room and kept on going.

Is this an enemy attack? Or something else...

... Is this my first job?

This is exactly what I wanted.

I don't know the situation, but I want to help fulfill all my master wishes. For him, I will not avoid any battles.

An incredible amount of magical power was now flowing through my body. The comparison between my power now and the power I had before is like night and day.

I, who went from hyuman to Lich, then from Lich to Hyuman.

This life of mine has been filled with ups and downs. My destiny has not once let me down, terrible to amazing situations such as this have left it full.

# Fort Stella *Demon army*

*Between chapters 70-78*

=====

The war for the demons, the forefront of the war with the hyumans was at Fort Stella.

This base is the start of the map for humans and the end of map for the demons.

Fort Stella was made by the Hyumans and with the help of the spirits, the fort has a geographical advantage and the major power of Limia and Gritonia want to reclaim it.

This fort is the place that has become the stage for many fierce battles.

“According to our information as you can see, any battle with hyumans right now will have a chance.....thus I will conclude my report.” (Demon A)

There were two people in charge of this Fort.

Well, technically there is only one person in charge but the other person's words are equal to that of the commander.

She is latter one, one of our demon generals.

“Rona-sama, the detail of the arrangement and routes of the armies of Limia and Gritonia are both here.” (Demon A)

An officer hands the documents and various materials to her quickly.

“The support from Aion was less than we expected and Lorel seems to becoming less involved as the decision to choose a Maiden comes closer.”  
(Demon A)

The officer that was telling the information had ended. There was no pause or hesitation in his words, there were no analogies in the report.

“Thank you, now I would like to ask you to give the same report to Io.” (Rona)

Rona-sama gave the officer further instruction after he had finished the report.

Io-sama and Rona-sama. These are the two who are in charge. Io-sama is the

commander of the army while Rona-sama is the strategist the keeps us from being below the humans.

Although Io-sama is the person who leads the army and is always with the soldier, Rona-sama is always either going somewhere or collecting information from various sources in her network.

These two are the absolute authority in this fort, no one can disobey them.

The power of these four people are all different but they have all pledged loyalty to his majesty the demon lord.

I am actually in Io-sama squad but I do not mind helping Rona-sama with her work.

There are some people who are frightened with espionage work because of their high risk and field activity.

Even right now Rona-sama is preparing measures against the human's attack that will be happening soon.

Io-sama was making a difficult face yesterday along with a face of fright, I think Rona-sama plans may have been a bit gruesome or so.

I truly feel pity for the hyumans that have to face her plans.

“Well, I wonder how strong the Hero is?” (Rona)

It is about time that the hyumans to begin another attack. According to our info, they want to attack the Fort at night.

The Hyumans do not like to attack at night a lot, but recently the Empire has been learning and has been attacking a lot more in the night.

I understand that this Fort is quite advantageous in both position and supplies but the hyumans have been too monotonous in their attacks.

Seeing that the Hyumans have now started to change their tactics, I believe that acquiring a Hero has somewhat evolved their thinking. I have also heard that the Heroes are actually quite strong and very few people are able to deal with them. Anyone who has fought the heroes have either lost their lives or are unable to battle.

There have been few people who were able to escape unscathed. Thus...I believe that the upcoming battle is quite different than the battles before as we have information that has lead us to believe that both Heroes will be showing up. I also believe that this is the reason that the Fort has been so tense lately.

But.....I also have absolute confidence in our victory.

Why, because we have two of the Demon generals currently in our Fort.

I am starting to wonder if any plan Rona-sama has made been wrong. I do not know any warrior that has toppled Io-sama in battle, and I do not know any as ruthless and cunning as Rona-sama.

I have completed my training for the preparations for the night war. My



placement in the battle is security in the Fort.

I may not even get a chance to swing my sword if everything goes well. My heart started singing praises for our generals and was excited.

I have been taught that no position in battle is useless and in war this becomes 10 times more important.

I will not hesitate. I will complete the job that is given to me.

“You, it is time to go out, so it is fine to leave here. If you are soldier that is part of Io’s army then do not be stiff but also do not get too relaxed.” (Rona)

“Yes ma’am, I will do my job with all my power.” (Demon A)

“Good.....one last thing, what are you most worried about in this war? Please be honest.” (Rona)

“Yes ma’am, I am worried about how our information may have been wrong and the humans will act in an unexpected way because of the two Heroes.” (Demon A)

“Good, that is answer I would expect from someone who is helping me.”

(Rona)

Oh were you reading my expression to decipher my answer. She was satisfied with my answer as I saw a slight grin on her face.

“Please do not worry, we will try our very best to keep the safety of the non-combatants and to keep the enemy lines at bay. ” (Rona)

“Yes ma’am, please do worry the morale of the Fort is high and enough thanks to lo-sama.” (Demon A)

Rona-sama left after hearing my last word. True vigilance as a spy is not required by lo-sama, but, he does think it is necessary.

Everyone who has been trained by him or trained with him understands this and thinks of it as a mission.

There were never trying to get on the good side of Rona.....maybe just a little.

I joined up with the team in charge of moving and organizing personnel after the security duty was finished, in anticipation for the attack.

I heard several sounds in the distance.

Has it began?

A large of amount information and exchange is being conducting, but most of it is what Rona-sama had predicted from the meeting earlier and is close to an exact copy of that.

I tried my best to hold my voice but I could not stop myself from making a smile.

Hyumans, Heroes, remember this.

This is the mage of the battlefield. And the person who is coming towards you right now is the Sword of his majesty.

Boom!!!!

This was the activation of Rona-sama strategy, this will bring the collapse and withdrawal of the human army.

The war is progressing within the range of the plan. However, there is no way to abstain from injuries and deaths in war.

I am thinking this while facing the hostile gaze from a woman warrior who is currently being treated right now.

She is one of the injured soldiers that we were able to bring back.

Those who were dead or close to death were left outside and only the one who could be treated we brought inside.

Of course we have already closed the gates to the fortress so anyone outside

must go through the unique route we have made.

There are no cases of it being noticed by the humans. They would have tried to send their soldiers if they had. Despite that.....

“We will kill Rona for you Tomoki-sama!!” (Demon girls)

“I will forever devote myself to Tomoki-sama”(Demon Girls)

The group of women tries to attack Rona-sama but fails completely. Rona-sama quickly knocks them out and takes away their weapons.

“Hmm, Tomoki, the charm power of his reaches this far and even to us huh?”  
(Rona)

They say more words and Rona-sama knocks them out. According to the information we have obtained, the Hero of the empire has the ability to attract or charm females.

These seem to affect every single race, whether it be demi-humans or demons. It is quite the fun ability I have to say.

But it is terrible ability for our side. Mix a charmed soldier with the ones who are injured and done, you have a spy.

The plan is normal and at the same time quite effective. But it does not work that well here.

Rona-sama already has way to detect and determine who has been charmed. This one should be just fine.

“Will it be ok?” (Demon A)

“The attack on the front gate was quite intense, so we did not notice this one. But the hero of the empire is sure annoying.”( Demon B)

“...I will wake her up later” (Demon A)

“Hey, you stop this at once! This world can only be led by one person.”  
(Demon girl)

“You are talking about his majesty right?” (Demon A)

“No! His imperial hero Tomoki, his majesty must follow Tomoki-sama as well.”

(Demon Girl)

“Bitch, what the hell...” (Demon A)

As a demon and as a soldier, these word must never be said. I felt a heat of anger awaken inside me.

“You Fool!!!” (Rona)

Blue flames covered the demon girl. It took only a moment.

The demon girl did not even scream. She had lost shape and disappeared within the blink of an eye. There were no ashes left.

I look towards the voice of the person who said that.

It was the same woman who I exchanged words with beforehand.

“Rona-sama.” (Demon A)

If she is here then that means the battle has reached a stable point where she does not need to attend to every move.

Yet, the mood here is extremely bad. I would not have thought that the strategy that was going so well would have such a bad ending.

“You....you seem to have kept up the protection well.” (Rona)

“No ma’am, there was delay in the recovering of the injured...I am sorry for that. Thanks to you ma’am I am safe and will return to my duty” (Demon A)

“Ok good....what about her, is she also like that?” (Rona)

“Yes ma’am, I am afraid so, she keeps yelling Tomoki-sama and is losing sanity quickly. I had knocked her out thus there is no danger, and was going to continue her treatment.” (Demon A)

It was the person I said would be fine.

I do not want see her killed as well.

“I am afraid Charmed cannot be healed.” (Rona)

“What ma’am!?” (Demon A)

“There is nothing that can be done. I will take over here please continue with the recovery of the injured and treatment.” (Rona)

“Yes!” (Demon A)



“If you believe that they still can be treated then restrained them and put them in prison. Io is coming back soon, good work.” (Rona)

“...Ummm.” (Demon A)

I know this is wrong but I have to ask. The expression on Rona-sama face is not good but also not bad. Io-sama is safe thus it is fine but I believe that something went wrong.

“What?” (Rona)

“What happen in the battle?” (Demon A)

“...Do you have the right to know or even ask?” (Rona)

“I am very sorry ma’am” (Demon A)

“...It is fine, the battle was a strange result, but I have at least gained something in this battle, knowing that there is soldier like you here is greatly fruitful.” (Rona)

“Yes?” (Demon A)

“The battle was completely unexpected, we have achieved the minimum victory in that we have kept here but the battalion of Io lost, Empire hero and the kingdom Hero fled. The two dragon slayers have also lost and lost an amazing amount troops as well. I really wonder what they met?” (Rona)

“That kind of...?” (Demon A)

Such a thing happened, why?

“Hmm....then my question, what is your name?” (Rona)

“I am a member of the Fort Stella forces, Alec Deed.” (Alec)

“Hmm, very well Alec Deed, you can go now. Let us meet again sometime.”  
(Rona)

“Yes ma’am, I shall excuse myself.” (Alec)

For some reason I was asked for my name and there was no punishment for my over standing.

The battle I heard from Rona-sama was scary. Still we have won over this fortress and won this battle.

We have protected this fortress.

As I was thinking this my footsteps got lighter The tension from before the battle was gone and the rising sun filled my heart.

We saw today that even with the Heroes of the hyumans as long as we have Rona-sama and Io-sama on our side we will never lose.

# An Unexpected Encounter *Sofia*

*Between chapters 74-78*

=====

The Hyumans’ strategy was to recapture the Fort Stella with the help of the Heroes.

The situation can only be seen as bad. The two heroes are coming into war for the first time ever and the Hyumans’ troops are quite numerous.

But the success of the Hyumans will never happen.

While the Hyumans are not able to predict the demons for some reason, the demons have completely grasped the movements of the Hyumans: they know where they will be attacking and how they will be using the heroes themselves.

The person who did this is pretending to be weak and hold up in the fort, but I can clearly feel the bloodlust she is giving off.

I am cooperating with the demons and also stepping out to battle.

I was looking forward to how Rona will put in her strategy, but she is using me as a spare force, a counter in case the power of the Limia Kingdom is able to reach the fort.

This now is my—the dragon slayer Sofia’s—job.

I am a Hyuman who is working with the demons. While there are various other circumstances, it quite nicely sums up as this.

I have not fought for a long time, so I was bored and am now participating in this war. Thus, my body is tense and excited for battle.

I want to fight soon. I want to kill.

“Hey, hold it in a bit more, idiot. The soldiers are getting scared.” (Lancer)

My buddy noticed my bloodlust and told me to stop. He looks like a child, but he's actually way older than me. That's why he talks rudely to me.

I looked at the soldiers faces and saw many of them were either scared or excessively sweating.

"...The Kingdom is close right now, right?" (Lancer)

"Why are we—well, I mean the demons—aiming for the Kingdom and not the Empire?" (Sofia)

"Again?" (Lancer)

"I think that the Empire is more of a threat than the Kingdom, given the present situation." (Sofia)

"I heard it was the demon king that decided on this course of action after hearing all the information. What made his decision I do not know." (Lancer)

The decision to crush the Kingdom was not made by the people on site; it was made by the demon king who is in the far north.

The demon king is a supreme existence to the demon army.

If he says to attack the Kingdom first, all other demons will obey; no objections or complaints.

"If that is all, I do not mind. And, from what I see, this plan will not fail either way. However..." (Sofia)

"Hmm?"(Lancer)

“I am also concerned with the lady at the Kingdom. I would have also decided on the Kingdom as well if I had to choose one.” (Sofia)

“...For what reason?” (Lancer)

I got a bit of cold gaze from my buddy.

How rude, I know some stuff as well.

“Women’s intuition” (Sofia)

“Fuu, Haha. You...a woman? Now that’s a good joke.” (Lancer)

“What?!!!”(Sofia)

A gold light descended from the sky. It hit the ground in a straight line.

It must be!!!!

“Sofia!” (Lancer)

“I know! Tell the general that he is to stop the advance and that I will go see the situation.” (Sofia)

...It is golden, the colour of the goddess. (Bug)

And I heard that that thing is golden as well.

Either way—whatever it is—I know it’s an enemy.

It was one moment later that an abnormally strong presence engulfed the battlefield.

It was a god. I felt somewhat frightened by that.

There were gold particles everywhere because of the wind.

Unpleasant. I know that only a few Hyumans would have this thought.

“Lancer, try to calm the soldiers down for me.” (Sofia)

“I know, leave it to me. Panicking is a hassle no one likes.” (Lancer)

My buddy calls a sword and leads me to the pillar.

“What is it this time?!” (Sofia)

There was a huge explosion of magical powers. It was like a devil had come to the battlefield.

It was from the direction of the fort.

Dammit! Is it the Hero or the goddess?

This is annoying. But, it will not keep me down. I will first go to the pillar first!

\*\*\*\*\*

I got something that felt like an awakening call.

I wonder if I’m feeling excited or scared. This feeling is amazing and it is because of something that happened just a little while ago.

As I was heading towards the Kingdom troops, we saw a golden pillar that appeared nearby.

We also felt an amazing power from the back as well. Unlike the previous pillar, that power was more destructive and felt like a burst. It happened near the fort too.

Two unexpected bursts of power happened and when we got to the pillar, there was a person wearing a blue coat.

From the golden light, there is only him there. So, it must mean that he is our enemy.

We decided to kill that man before he can strike.

The man just looks up at the sky, looking neither tense nor anxious. He tries to guard his head from my blow with his bare hands.

My sword strike is much stronger than something that can be blocked by the likes of bare hands.

This sword was created by the blade dragon himself and, along with my power, it cannot not be blocked.

I expected his upper body to be completely gone right now.

“Well, I guess things don’t always go as you expect. I got one scratch on his hand and, now that my mind is clear, I feel like this is a bad joke.” (Sofia)

My expectations were betrayed. I thought this person looked weak, but I guess the difference is worlds apart. As expected of the goddess’s servant.

I watch him for a while before he turns to me.

How slow. This reaction is not even on the level of a beginner.

“Wow, it is not dead yet....As expected of something that the goddess brought. I wonder what kind of defense it has...and that face...is it a mixed chimera?”(Sofia)



I mocked at that man while analyzing the situation.

“Sofia, I do not think you will be able to take off that thing alone. My mind was directed here by the sword telling me that.”(Lancer)

My buddy finally arrived while I got the first hit in.

I have skills that he can't use, in the same way he has some that I can't. One of them is a super speed. So, even if we travel together, I will always arrive first.

“Hey, even though I used all of my force in that attack, it did nothing. Is this sword rusted?”(Sofia)

I try to mock at my buddy as well, since he mocked me.

I know that the guy in front of me is not used to fighting and, for some reason, I cannot sense any power from him.

He got off with just his hand being slightly injured, yet the feeling on my hand hitting his still remained.

I can tell that the guy in front of me has the strongest defense power I have ever faced.

I have to be vigilant against this guy. He only got a scratch against my blow which could kill a normal dragon instantly.

By the plan, we were supposed to raid the Kingdom and paralyze it, killing the royal family while at it.

From it, I can tell that the demon race fears the Kingdom way more than the Empire.

So my job was supposed to be to take off the Kingdom's hero. I have to quickly get back to that job.

The demon race and I are just using each other; until I have what I need, I still

have to keep this connection with them.

There is a special existence in the demon territory that I have to kill. If this guy escapes and informs the guild and the Kingdom of my involvement, moving from now on will be difficult.

I have to quickly kill this guy.

Hmm.

I feel something coming from him. His clothes turned red.

I warn Lancer about this. But from what I see, there was no need for it as he was already preparing for an art.

I saw the sword lights and then all his swords were scattered around.

This feeling...

This feeling from when we were still trying to kill each other in our fight.

Before I was called by the title of a dragon slayer, I already had the ability to kill lots of dragons.

Well, ability as in skills.

Stop, I can't get distracted now.

This guy may be a beginner in fighting, but I have to get ready for anything. I don't feel much power though.

But that is exactly why I have to be careful: it is strange that he is so weak, but I was not able to kill him yet.

He is coming.

I quickly go airborne and start to rush until his spells start to come at me.

There were weird spheres chasing me, multiple of them as well.

They followed me everywhere I went; I tried to change directions quickly, but I could not get away from them.

Man, that guy is amazing.

I started to laugh. This kind of attack is for when you have no plans and want to delay the opponent.

I had to use a technique to stop them, but it was weird that I did not see any type of casting.

I followed my intuition to dodge them, which was lucky for me.

This guy is quite the magician. His presence is weird: I feel the power of a third class mage, but his attacks and power are all super high level first class.

“This feeling...how should I describe it...?”(Sofia)

I do not understand this guy. I am clearly attacking him, but it is all being blocked by some kind of barrier.

I tried to get in some blows before he tried to cast again, but could not get through.

When I did get through, he used his hands again to block it.

I did not let it show up, but I was stunned.

My sword clearly damaged his hands, but he still uses them to block me. This is a very unnatural battle and a very uncomfortable one.

I somehow stop him from escaping and start to attack him again.

This feeling of danger and uneasiness...

He somehow avoided danger from my attacks, but I can clearly tell that he has no experience on the battlefield and no knowledge of how to fight a battle.

But his power, magic power and especially defense power are all insane.

I felt an alarm ring within me; if I left him alive, he would learn how to fight a battle and how to use his abilities.

That is what I felt when fighting this guy.

I decided to use the secret weapon that the demons lent me here. I think that this is my only chance to kill this guy.

If I let him go, then he will become someone of unbelievable strength. It might also be because I was afraid of him.

From my deductions of the situation, this guy is definitely someone who received power from the goddess. But he himself is lousy.

I also think that this guy has no idea why he is here, or where he is right now. I also think that he has no idea who we are, even though we are quite famous among the Hyumans.

I have little to no proof for this other than the summoning of the goddess and this guy's behavior, but I believe that this is right.

I don't know whether I should thank the goddess or screw her over for this.

If I do kill him, then it is thank; if I don't kill him, then screw her.

I prevented him from leaving the battlefield and also got his hand somehow; I see blood from it. This means that I can kill him.

“ajsfianionoain”(Sofia)

I start the chant for the ring on my finger.

I form the fields that will abasct the goddess and cancel out forces that are beyond a certain level.

Ok.

For some reason he said ok?

But I can tell from his speech that it is not the common language. As I thought, he was just summoned to this world.

I am really thanking the goddess now...

No, now is not the time to think about this.

“Hahaha. What? Do you think she is a part of the Hyuman army?  
Hahaaha!”(Lancer)

His name seemed to be Raidou, and Lancer—who was talking with him—started laughing for some reason.

I tried to talk to him as well and see what was so interesting...

As I thought, he really does not know who we are or where he is.

So this person is someone who was just recently summoned by the goddess.

I know that the other two heroes are not from this world. I do not know what kind of things are common sense in the other world though.

But, as expected, this person is an otherworlder.

Thankfully, I used the ring to block the powers of the goddess.

But my intuition is telling me to remain vigilant, this guy is still dangerous. I have to quickly kill him or I will regret it.

He tried to tell us that he’s just a bystander and just a merchant...I do not know why he was doing this.

For some reason, he kept telling us that he did not want to fight. But him doing this just made me more cautious.

My knowledge is telling me that Raidou is just a small fry.... But my experience in battle and intuition were screaming that he is the worst thing in this world.

I knew what to trust.

I see him pull out the rings on his finger after he sees that I keep attacking him. I cut off those finger as well. I thought I was close to victory, but...

An unimaginable amount of magical power just spewed out of Raidou after that.

““What...!!!!?””(Lancer/Sofia)

My voice and Lancer's overlapped.

It was a contradictory situation: when I cut off his fingers expecting him to get weaker, he got tremendously stronger.

I have to kill him right now, every fiber in my body screamed this.

I dashed at him quickly...

It was now that a nightmare began.

# Rembrandt Family

## Chapter 82.5

*[TLnote: First thing, this is actually not POV, but it is not a side story either, nor is it part of the main story. Thus, since I have no other classification for it and Reigokai said to just treat this as POV, I am doing this chapter.]*

=====

As Makoto was completing his procedure to become a teacher in Rotsgard and the Kuzunoha company was finally starting to begin its operation, a situation was happening in Tsige.

The city of Tsige had started to develop much faster. Inside the main company in charge of the city, Patrick Rembrandt had a satisfied expression when seeing this from his window. However, today was rather more special than the city to him. He seemed quite restless and was pacing around the room.

But he was also full of expectations too. He felt like a child before a trip to the park.

He heard knocking on the door.

“Come in.”(Rembrandt)

Rembrandt gave permission to enter without even looking who it was.

“Excuse me, Sir.”(Morris)

“Morris.”(Rembrandt)

Rembrandt was happy to see that it was his butler Morris who had entered the room. He and Morris had a long standing relationship and have been together for quite a while now.

He nodded to him with a full smile indicating everything is fine.

“Yes sir, very soon you will be able to see them.” (Morris)

“Yes, I see. Thank you.”(Rembrandt)

“... Yes, it is all thanks to that person.”(Morris)

“I am truly grateful to him.”(Rembrandt)

Rembrandt nodded completely to Morris’s words. Rembrandt thanked a person who was not in this room with his entire heart. Tsige’s most powerful merchant and also one of the most powerful merchants in the world, Rembrandt was trying to hold back his tears.

But after seeing the three people who were being escorted by the maid coming towards him, he abandoned all those thoughts.

He started running towards them and gave them all a big hug.

“Lisa! Sif! Yuno!”(Rembrandt)



He shouted the names of his beloved wife and two daughters.

Their bodies were well enough to move around the house. Rembrandt ran towards them and gave all three of them a big hug at the same time. While he was doing that, the tears that he had tried to hold back overflowed and completely stained his face along with his runny nose.

If someone saw him right now, they would not believe that this is one of the people who had control over the city and influence the world.

Regardless of that, he continued to cry. His wife even thought that when he called them, other than her name, he could not properly say the names of his two daughters.

The dignity of a merchant was no more and he became just a father at that moment.

Lisa hugged him back, started to rub his head and smiled at him.

His two daughter also hugged him back, but felt slightly embarrassed at the situation.

This was the happiest moment he had in the recent years. He completely and entirely had let go of all of his pent up feelings and showed his ugliest face in front of them.

The maids or servant who were there were either crying with him or smiling at seeing their master finally being happy again. Morris had no expression seeing his longtime friend in this state, but felt great joy to see him finally let

go.

Rembrandt started to talk, but he was still crying thus no words he spoke could be understood by his family. His plan of trying to seem calm and composed was gone and thrown out of the window.

“Dear, I think it’s about time to let go...”(Lisa)

The expression that the maids were showing now were bitter smiles and she was starting to feel troubled over how long the hug would be.

Sif and Yuno were also quite weary of the hug as well.

The dresses that he had specially made for them for this day were ruined by the person who had also paid for them with his own snot and tears.

Morris had started to think that maybe he should interfere right now.

Lisa, Sif, and Yuno started to make a strange expression at his last words when he finally split from them. After a while of trying to calm himself, Rembrandt had finally returned to a face of composure and dignity.

“Dear, I may have misheard your last sentence can you repeat it?”(Lisa)

“Yes father, what was thing that you said just now?”(Sif)

“I am pretty sure I did mishear it because that kind of thing is impossible even

for father.”(Yuno)

Rembrandt looked at his family with a questionable expression, wondering what were they talking about.

“Oh, we are going have a big party involving the entire city!”(Rembrandt)

“No, before that dear.”(Lisa)

“Before that... Oh, yes. I am going to have portraits of you three while you were recuperating. They will be large and hanged in a special room I am currently building. I have hired the best people for this and have spared no expense, this is so you can feel proud at the fact that you overcame the ordeal and will always remember that nothing can be worse than that.”(Rembrandt)

“What?”(Lisa)

“Of course, I hired the best craftsmen to do this. I even had Morris survey the people to make sure they were all first class. Isn’t that right, Morris?”(Rembrandt)

“Yes, we will be able to see how we had overcome the greatest obstacle that this family had ever encountered in a twenty-portrait series.”(Morris)

Rembrandt and Morris were very excited for this project and you could hear the servants outside saying things like this will be amazing and as expected of the master while the main characters in this series were quite...

“Dear, you don’t mean that you had painted us with those disgusting figures right?”(Lisa)

“Please mother, father is smarter than that.”(Sif)

“...”(Yuno)

Lisa confirmed to make sure what she heard was right.

Sif had put a little faith in her father.

Yuno already knew it so she kept silent.

“What are you talking about, of course I did. The main characters are you three! The middle five pieces are almost complete with Raidou looking gallant appearing from the wasteland like the second coming of the savior... What’s wrong? It can’t be that the medicine didn’t work!?”(Rembrandt)

“Yes, no matter what medicine you give, it will not fix this.”(Lisa)

“I believe only death can cure this.”(Sif)

“Idiot.” (Yuno)

Lisa was convinced that her husband was a moron.

Sif was convinced her father was a moron.

Yuno already knew her father was an idiot.

“What, why are you angry?”(Rembrandt)

Rembrandt was confused at their anger.

Lisa and Sif sighed. Yuno just went to side and had just given up on her father.

“Morris, how could you not stop him?”(Lisa)

“We were just cured, I do not want collapse again.”(Sif)

“Morris, please stop father’s rampage from now on.”(Yuno)

“...Is something wrong?”(Morris)

Lisa and Sif looked at Morris with pity and Yuno had just given up on this and tried to contact Uncle Zara to fix the duo.

“Dear, Morris, sit down now.”(Lisa)

“Huh?”(Rembrandt)

“Yes, madam.”(Morris)

“I will only ask this once... Where are the pictures?”(Lisa)

Lisa interrogated her husband and Morris with cold, indifferent eyes.

Rembrandt began to cry his eyes out again from her look and Morris who had saw death behind her gaze quickly informed her of the location.

“Are they still being drawn or are they complete?”(Lisa)

“li-oh-si-ow-yu-ah”(Rembrandt)

Sif made sure to block anything her father was trying to say.

“The paintings are in the second warehouse and the ones still being drawn are with the artist...where is the address again, Morris?”(Rembrandt)

“The workshop is in Lenny street, the man is named Malta and is in charge of the exchange too, he should have the complete address.”(Morris)

“It was... It was a man... who drew... ah... bride can’t...”(Yuno)

Yuno quickly ordered the maid to get the paintings and meet the man name Malta.

The maid who received the order rolled up her skirt and started to run faster than a wolf.

“It can’t be... Father, did Mr. Raidou see the paintings as well?”(Sif)

Sif says the name of certain person.

It was the name of the person that saved them.

Only a few people saw the appearance of them when they were in that state.

It would be fine if he had only seen their mother, but it was a critical situation if he saw all of them.

Raidou must not have seen the paintings, she hopes with all her heart.

“No, he had already left to Rotsgard when I had ordered the paintings to be created. I believe right now he should be taking the entrance exam at the academy.”(Rembrandt)

“Huuu.”(All three)

Lisa, Sif and Yuno all nods in relief.

“Since we had the young ladies also painted, we did not want him to see them either.”(Morris)

Morris confirmed his master’s words.

“Umm...excuse me, there is something that came.”(Servant)

“...What is it?”(Rembrandt)

A servant’s voice came from the door.

Rembrandt did not give permission to enter; he had returned to his merchant self and there was also the problem that he was sitting down on the floor.

“We have a message from Tomoe of the Kuzunoha Company.”(Servant)

“From Miss Tomoe? Why did you not let her in? I thought I had announced to everyone that people from the Kusunoha company are always allowed in the manor.”(Rembrandt)

“Yes, but since it was a celebration day for the family, I informed her that you were slightly busy with the party preparations. She had said there were no problems and wished good luck with the party too, the mess...”(Servant)

“Continue with the message.”(Lisa)

“Yes, she had said she was thankful for the cooperation of the Rembrandt company and that Master Raidou had safely arrived in Rotsgard and has been accepted into the academy as a temporary instructor.”(Servant)

“.....”(Five of them)

Silence

The four people in the room fell silent from those words. The reason was simple, the word instructor was in there

“Of course.”(Sif)

Sif managed to break the silence.

“I knew this would happen.”(Yuno)



Yuno and Sif, both came to the same conclusion. Rembrandt and Morris both started to tremble. Lisa looked at the two with the cold, indifferent gaze once more.

“...What is wrong, honey?”(Rembrandt)

“Ok, answer this honestly?”(Lisa)

Lisa, with her eyes. said those words and the both of them became stiff.

“Who arranged the documents?”(Lisa)

Morris raised his hand.

“Who compiled the documents?”(Lisa)

Morris raised his hand again.

“Who checked the papers?”(Lisa)

Rembrandt raised his hand, slowly.

The three people looked at him with eyes of pity.

“I never thought I would see Morris make a mistake or leave a job undone

and let it be done by someone else, but both of those things happened today.”(Sif)

“To the benefactor who saved our entire family...”(Lisa)

“Why is he a teacher and not a student?”(Yuno)

“Are you both ready? It is punishment time.”(Lisa)

The mother dealt with the fools and the room was filled with the scent of absolute fear...

“Wait, wait. This is not our fault! Even if we did make mistakes in the documents and they had taken them, they had clearly checked those documents beforehand. I saw them do it in front of me, many servants can confirm this. If they had noticed a problem then they would have contacted me immediately.”(Rembrandt)

“Yes, it is as the master says; they had clearly seen the documents and went to the register and then finished the procedure. This is something even I would not mistake, Madam.”(Morris)

“When completing the procedure you would notice that the process is different and the receptionist would confirm with you if you want this job or another one. I have even sent a letter of recommendation too.”(Rembrandt)

Rembrandt and Morris tried to make various excuses and reasons but they fell on deaf ears.

Yuno noticed that the servant had yet to leave and when she opened the door, he handed her a letter which she read and then spoke.

“It says that his follower lined up and completed the procedure without any problems. They did not suspect anything wrong with the evaluation of temporary instructor and thus Mr. Raidou had completed the test and became an instructor.”(Yuno)

The letter also talked about the test Raidou had done and, from the expression that Rembrandt and Morris had, it seemed that the test was quite difficult to complete.

“...Father, there is no mention that the letter of recommendation had any effect?”(Yuno)

“No, I definitely handed the letter of recommendation; it should have allowed them to complete everything very smoothly.”(Rembrandt)

“...Sir, I believe it is also the recruitment period for temporary instructors as well.”(Morris)

“Hmmm... yes, I did say a temporary admission, but no mention of lecturer or teacher in the letter. I did not endorse that.”(Rembrandt)

“From what I see, Mr. Raidou got the highest difficulty test and not only that; he had to wait in line for the procedure to begin. Also, it seems that they had given him some problems. Father this is not repayment, but incredibly terrible harassment.”(Yuno)

It was exactly that. The other lecturers had easy exams while Raidou had gotten the toughest one. From what they see, Rembrandt had only caused Raidou problems.

“I am not pleased in the least, Dear; that man not only saved us three, but also helped you in your dire time and you only caused him problems....What did you say in the letter?”(Lisa)

His family all gave him tundra type eyes and completely froze in place figuratively. Rembrandt, seeing this, started to shake his head hard.

“I did not write anything that would lead to any problems like this. I am fully supporting him and his business. I also gave him a store that I own in that city to allow him to conduct his business. Also, Yuno, please do not open letter assigned to me; that is not a good habit to develop.”(Rembrandt)

“Why did it become like this?”(Morris)

Morris realized that Rembrandt was looking to the right while talking, the master’s old habit of lying, he had given up hope.

Lisa had them reflect deeply.

They were not invited to the party.

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Makoto’s Letter to Rembrandt

Mr. Rembrandt, how are you doing?

Thank you for recommending me to the academy.

I was able to start my business and get a stable foothold in this place.

I did not notice that you had recommended me as lecturer and had forgot to tell my subordinate about this... oh well.

I had taken the practical examination since it fit me the most. I have established a lecturer schedule of once a week.

I have gotten another important subordinate after I had left Tsige, his is name Shiki, I will introduce him to you when we meet again.

I have also encountered this fine restaurant where they make these things called nabe, it is quite delicious. I will treat you to some in the future.

I have left my other two subordinates, Mio and Tomoe, in Tsige. I hope they do not cause you any inconvenience.

Since we cannot interact at long distance, I have told them to make as much contact with your employees as possible and help them out in any ways. I hope this will allow me to pay you back.

I hope that you will please listen to their story if those two ever come to consult about something

Thank you very much.

*PS.*

How is your family doing?

I hope they have turned for the better and are up and about.

I would like to ask you about something in regard to business and merchant details when meet again.

Thus, Rembrandt, please take good care of yourself and please ask Tomoe and Mio for help if you are in trouble ever.

From Rotsgard, Kuzunoha company President Raidou Misumi

# Demon General Meets Raidou *Rona*

*Between chapters 96-102*

=====

Ahh, extra work.

I did not want to do this, that was my honest opinion.

Even though as a general, there are many other things I could be doing to help His Highness.

This was my initial thought.

“Raidou, eh.”(Rona)

“Yes.”(Alec)

[TLnote: I don't know if it is Alec but since Alec is shorter than Demon Soldier A, I will use Alec.]

I thought there was no point in hearing about this person, but my intuition said to investigate this man thoroughly.

“A merchant who became an Instructor at the academy just by completing the practical exam... is this a joke?”(Rona)

“... No Ma'am, this is all true.”(Alec)

“Fine, I first need an Identity at the academy. I have no choice but to infiltrate

the academy and see for myself. I will change into the disguise in a little while, what was the name... Karen Frost?"(Rona)

"Is Ma'am going herself?"(Alec)

"There is no choice but for me to go, if it is a dangerous opponent, then I can kill him. I have to perceive how powerful this person is, what kind of thoughts this person has, and what methods are needed to kill him if the situation requires it. If you think that you are able to handle it, then speak now."(Rona)

"I believe that I will be able to do it."(Alec)

"If the person is at a level that you are unable to perceive, then sending you will be a waste of time, would it not? Besides, right now I am in the city and am not doing anything crucial, thus I am able to depart for this."(Rona)

"... I am sorry for speaking out of term like that."(Alec)

I already know the difficulty of the lecturer exam at the academy, and this person passed with only doing the practical exam. This practical exam is also something I have a rough understanding of as well. I believe only I could possibly complete this exam in this city right now.

...But a merchant being able to do it has an ominous feeling to it. I feel a strong discomfort from it.

"No, it is quite alright, I would like you to take care of other things, confirm the progress of the coming plan that we have prepared. I will want to see the full report later, so come by again."(Rona)



“Yes Ma’am. Leaving aside Raidou for now Ma’am, what should we do about those people?”(Rona)

“... I would like to ask you to do it, but for now leave it, we do not have enough personnel to carry that out yet. We cannot lose our established position in this town so quickly.”(Rona)

“... Yes Ma’am.”(Rona)

Alec, my subordinate, nods at my words.

Rotsgard is a fully hyuman city.

Hyumans are the enemy in this war, thus we cannot reveal ourselves in this city just yet.

We, who can use special illusion magic, infiltrated the town to prepare measures for a large scale upcoming operation.

Hyumans are very stupid. They do not use information or try to obtain information in this war, they just believe that the goddess will save them from this war. We, the demons, try to take any benefit we can, thus if we are discovered, infiltrating would be a large waste of time from the start.

Moreover, we have received information that a particular third party has joined us in this city, a thing different from the hyumans and us demons.

This third party is the reason I am here, and also what my men asked me about.

... The war is right now incredibly advantageous to the demons... but we have not won yet.

If I read something wrong or give false information, this situation could change at the drop of a hat.

That is why something like Raidou, an unknown factor coming in right now, is a pain.

But it is my duty, as a general to His Majesty, to investigate all factors.

“Leave it for now, I will think about it during this time.”(Rona)

Those people huh, the Kuzunoha Company.

It is the new business in Tsige that has been rapidly growing in size.

That city is the only city that I do not have enough information about, I had people in the wilderness though.

Of course, they were handpicked by me.

But some time ago I lost contact with them.

I know something happened.

It is obvious something happened, but I do not know what.

I have sent many to survey the place, but they all either disappeared, or are too afraid to go.

The end of the world is a mysterious place, and anything can happen there, thus I cannot perceive what happened.

Tsige, the closest city to the end of the world, has the company.

I am quite worried about this company.

That city also belongs to one of the major powers in the world, Aion. That city does not discriminate against demi-humans and other species, thus it is quite special.

That country is the only country that tries to obtain information and analyze it. It is not on the level of us demons, but in less than 10 years they could easily rival us.

“In any case, we must focus on this town for the large scale operation that is coming up. This city contains the academy, the largest educational facility in the world, thus people who graduate from there are always people who influence

the world. We must steadily develop the plan.”(Rona)

“I will do this even if it costs me my life.”(Alec)

Well, leaving that aside.

Raidou the lecturer and Raidou the merchant

I wonder how much fun you will be?

“Haaah, haaah....”(Rona)

My own breath was annoying me.

By using illusion magic of a higher level, I was able to get into the academy as the woman named Karen Frost.

Karen Frost was a very rich person and lived close to the empire. She was called a prodigy and had the power to be called that.

When I first learned of the name, I had thought about cutting off the bud before it was too late, but there was no need for me to do anything. She was killed at the hands of her own people.

As expected of humans, they never let me down.

The only thing I did was kill all of Karen’s killers, thus you could say I took revenge for the poor girl, and then made her a substitute for me to use later on. I made it so that all who knew the event of her death was killed, and that she came back in one piece.

That was all I did.

Now using the name Karen Frost I attended a lecture that Raidou was holding, but this...

I know I am limiting my power much to the level of student, but this was completely ridiculous. I and the two other girls that joined the class, have been

attacking Raidou non-stop.

No matter what though, nothing worked on him.

He pointed out what is bad and what is good. He also crushed the bad moves in an instant. Every single time, crushed.

I got a little hot headed by this situation and released a serious blow towards him, but it was a blow that I could pretend I got by fluke.

... I don't even need to explain, he crushed it again, he was slightly surprised, but then went back to pointing out what was good and what was bad.

This guy is definitely dangerous.

He is not just a teacher, but a super class magician.

He is the type of person that goes to the frontlines each and every time, and comes back looking like he walked through the park.

Only I in our army can do that.

This type of person is the most dangerous in a war.

They have power, thus cannot be killed; they have power, thus can inspire troops; they have power, thus can kill all obstacles.

Also there is something else besides him...

I looked at the other side while trying to attack Raidou.

That side had the other students whom Raidou was teaching, they were fighting a monster.

A single man supervised them, a subordinate of Raidou.

I saw him and made a click with my tongue.

His subordinate's knowledge of magic was truly extraordinary.

I am pretty sure that man is equal to me in ability, and his equipment is also a high performance staff.

Add the advanced recovery magic he knows, and he becomes equally dangerous as Raidou.

Also the Monster that the students were fighting.

Again I was surprised by the actions of Raidou.

It was a Mist Lizard. A specie that lives quite deep at end of world, and as far as I know, are the strongest type of Lizardman.

I tried to gain their cooperation once, but lost many men and got rejected when we finally began to talk.

Raidou summoned one just like that.

Even now while I am thinking this, he is completely crushing every attack I and the sisters throw at him, whether it is spirit magic or regular magic, all of them are destroyed.

I thought that this would be quite easy, but as expected, anything that comes out of the end of the world is out of my range of expectations.

He is using some type of unknown language that allows him to cast magic instantly.

If this man has both his magic ability and Io's martial arts skills, then he cannot be called a Hyuman anymore.

This man will become a one-man army at that time.

He is a nightmare, I felt this from the bottom of my heart.

If this man is taken in by one of the super powers of the Hyumans, then no doubt we will instantly lose our advantage in this war.

I thought about punishing those demons that reported about this man when those stupid people from Limia were beaten down, but looks like they made the correct judgement, as expected of my men.

I do however....think that if we combine the demons and Sofia, we can kill this man, thus I still have some leeway in this situation, right?

“Ok, we will stop here.”(Shiki)

Raidou ended the lecture after some time.

This man, if he is on your side, is the greatest weapon.

But him becoming that, for some reason, I feel that it will never happen.

I do not know the reason for this feeling, it is not intuition, but rather my sense of danger, I think.....

“Thank you very much for the lesson...haah, haah.”(Rona)

I acknowledge Shiki's ending of the lecture and give my thanks to Raidou, faking my fatigue to make it seem real to him.

While observing him I got this unknown feeling....is this....

I would like to say that it is my sense of battle developed from war maybe?

I know this was not a real battle and he will not kill us, but this was not the problem.

But rather, in the back of my heart and mind, I felt that if I let up even just slightly, I might actually lose my life here.

I do not know if I am mixing the battlefield with this daily life....

I feel that this person is someone whom you should not meet on the battlefield or in daily life.

Yep, let's not.

This is a creepy feeling.

I did not think about it before when I first met him, but now.

Any sign of power, aura or dignity.....etc.

Raidou does not possess, or rather I cannot feel it.

I only feel that the person in front of me is a normal person.

But I just observed how normal this person is.

Yup I should quickly.....

Stop thinking about it.

I cannot make a judgement at this stage of the investigation, I do not have enough info.

I am getting impatient due to discovering something truly unexpected.

It was the same when I launched that blow.

Right now, I am Karen Frost.

I will soon be replaced by my men, thus I cannot do anything suspicious or it will blow the cover.

We have other plans that we must develop as well in this city.

I do not want the Hyumans to discover the demons just yet.

I cannot get rid of the advantage that we have right now.

Calm down.....

Observe, Analyze, and then report, this what I have to do.

“haah....haaah”(Rona)

“Wow, Good work out there Karen, I am surprised by your ability, you are a great magic user.”(Sif)

“Oh...Sif-san.....No, I am not, my attacks could not even touch the teacher.....I have lost all confidence....”(Rona)

As I was faking my fatigue, the Rembrandt's eldest daughter comes up to me and starts talking to me, and afterwards the little one also came.

“No, you were great, much better than me. Whether it was the bow or spear, he blocked them all with ease.”(Yuno)

“I just happen to have a little more experience in actual battle than the two of you. I am still a student, thus I still have many things to learn, let us 3, do our best from now on.”(Rona)

The Merchant Rembrandt's Daughters.

They have fighting skills and are the daughters of the powerful Merchant Rembrandt.

If they train diligently, then they will become quite the experts, though not on my level.

But there is a certain lack of tension in this school, thus it is hard to imagine them becoming just that, is what I thought at first, but with the appearance of Raidou, they will change drastically.

Well, leaving that aside, while we 3 were talking, the other students joined us in the conversation and we got to know each other.

This is a fine atmosphere, I quite like it.

I remember my military school days from this interaction, how fun.

[Oh, Karen Frost, I have something to discuss with you, what are your plans for today?](Makoto)

“Umm, I only have this lecture for today.”(Rona)

I was called out suddenly.

I try to tell my plans without giving away my surprise as much as possible.

I am prepared for this kind of thing, thus I am ready for this unexpected situation.

If he is inviting me to talk, then this will be good for my investigation.



But for some reason, he was approaching so suddenly and quickly.....

[Good, I have something that is bothering me.](Makoto)

“Oh, what is it Sensei?”(Rona)

[well, since you have time, accompany me for awhile.](Makoto)

“.....yes sensei.”(Rona)

\*\*\*\*\*

“umm.. Madam Rona, where are you going, you look slightly pale Ma’am!?”(Alec)

I have finally returned to my hideout from that damn shop Gotetsu.

I close the entrance to my office, with only my lone subordinate inside, and start taking deep breaths.

After taking those breaths, I clenched my teeth and threw everything on my desk to the floor in anger.

My anger did not subside, I kept smashing things and ripping papers for awhile.

My subordinate kept telling me to stop, until he finally got desperate and scared, even saying stop in a weak voice.

Damn it!

Damn it !!!

Raidou and the Kuzunoha Company!

Those people....! Damn it!

“Report!”(Rona)

“Yes, Ma’am.”(Alec)

My subordinate is still trembling

But right now, this is more important.

“What is the Kuzunoha Company?”(Rona)

“Yes Ma’am, it is a newly registered company that has its roots in Tsige. Their main product is medicine and they dabble in weapons for adventurers and other miscellaneous goods. Oh yes, also they are Hiring Demi-human employees mainly.”(Alec)

“...Is that all?”(Rona)

“No Ma’am, we have also received a new report that they have deep connections with the Leading Merchant in that city-Rembrandt.”(Alec)

“I already know all this!”(Rona)

“hiii”(Alec)

“Rembrandt is not just the leading Merchant in that city. There is no ruler in Tsige, do you know why? It is because Patrick Rembrandt has full control of the

city and is the true Ruler for that city. He has immense influence that makes him that.”(Rona)

“But there was no such report.”(Alec)

“Don’t just take everything at face value, look deeper into every situation!”(Rona)

“I am Sorry, Ma’am.”(Alec)

A rough voice.

No, it is my voice that is rough.

I could not control the emotions that I always concealed when talking to them.

“....Ok, remember to always read the reports and then start to analyze, look for connections, and infer those connections until you arrive at a conclusion, understand? Here is my order, Everyone and anyone will stop what they have to do and are doing, and put full attention in investigating the Kuzunoha company.”(Rona)

“What are those people?”(Alec)

“.....They knew everything. They knew my name, all inner workings of the demon race, about the Dragon Slayer, all of it.”(Rona)

“No, this is not possible!”(Alec)

“I also thought this at first, but my thoughts were quickly put to rest. I talked with them, and it seemed like all the information we have is already in the palm of their hands. I got them to even say the name of the Dragon Slayer, Sofia, as well as the Dragon, Lancer. They also knew our names and several projects we have been doing!”(Rona)

“If so, then this Kuzunoha Company is the intelligence agency for Aion....”(Alec)

“Do not make up conclusions without definite proof! That inference can be done by a small child, you are relying on too little information to confirm that inference. Right now we do not have anything we can use to deduce that it won’t be just speculation. Try to infiltrate the Rembrandt company, and use their intelligence agency to get information as well. Leave Rotsgard empty for a while, the plan is already set and in motion, we just have to wait now. Investigate the Kuzunoha company with everything we have.”(Rona)

“But is the original purpose you were here for already done?”(Alec)

“Yes, I have managed to do something about that. For the time being, I do have some leeway and we need to fill this leeway with concrete evidence.”(Rona)

Raidou.

This will not be the end of it.

I will not make a formal report to his majesty until I have concrete evidence to support it.

Personally, I am still not sure what you are, but I do know that I want to punch you in the face.

But of course, as calmly as possible.

While thinking this, I become involved with the Kuzunoha company, the mysterious company that appeared in front of me.

\*\*\*\*\*

“This is impossible...!”(Alec)

“.....”(Rona)

The information we collected on the Kuzunoha Company from both here in Rotsgard, and also from the city Tsige.

It was quite the large amount of reports.

It was my subordinate, Alec, who said impossible. He is the head of operations in this city.

I feel the same way as him when I read those.

But....I am much calmer than last time.

I also expected something like this from the reports.

“The merchandise that the Kuzunoha company sells is coming out of nowhere, the spies have kept tabs on them 24/7, yet they do not know where the goods are coming from. The amount of merchandise they have during the morning, and then the sales report that they turn in do not match. I do not believe they have any hidden warehouses. Spies also sometimes see new people of the company come out from the store. They have kept records of all people that leave and enter the city, and all people that leave and enter the Kuzunoha company. Thus they have no idea where these people are coming from, huh?”(Rona)

My men tremble at me reading the report.

“The spies also lose track of said personnel sometimes as well.....”(Rona)

“I am sorry Ma’am.”(Alec)

“The spies also heard the strange conversations which the employees held in both stores, they kept talking about that it is cold or warm.....even how to grow crops...I wonder...what it may be.”(Rona)

I seem to have arrived at one possible conclusion, but this is quite difficult to say the least.

But this is the only truth left.

“.....They seem to have the conversations on the same days in both cities, or close together in time....”(Rona)

“I did not think of this possibility, but the special connection between Tsige and Rotsgard.....”(Rona)

“But Ma’am, that kind of long distance communication is difficult even for us.....”(Alec)

“No, for example, you can make contact by sending a continuous transition of letters or something.”(Rona)

“But Ma’am, everyone in the store has these conversations, it is not about shops either, they discuss similar private life conversation as well.”(Alec)

Since Raidou is able to use summoning magic, there is also the possibility that he can use teleportation magic at a practical and operational level.

I do not believe they use this method to deliver products, because the larger the object the harder it is to teleport.

But if it is something as small as a letter, then it will be possible.

However, this still does not explain the reason behind their conversation topics, why the weather?

I wonder if they are talking about a place in the end of the world.

Or maybe it is their base.

And all of them seem to be able to talk through this and use thought transmission.

Also, none of them ever discuss anything about work. Why?

Are they afraid of spies?

“Are they on alert?”(Rona)

“Ma’am?”(Alec)

Of Course Vigilance.

They are on alert from spies.

It is so obvious.

Why did I hesitate.....!

“Wow.....”

I could only say that.

Of course, this is natural.

If we are spying, then it is natural to be vigilant of other spies.

I know this, because we do it as well.

The fact that the Kuzunoha Company is wary of spies tells us....not much, but something.

“They must have a way to spy on others too, but very discreetly.”(Rona)

“...Wa”(Alec)

The depth of their knowledge and skill still cannot be grasped.

The movement of their employees cannot be grasped.

The possibility of a third base is still unknown.

The distribution personnel and the attention to meticulous detail from the individuals is known.

....We are done here.

“I am going back immediately. Do not anger the Kuzunoha company, just observe them closely.”(Rona)

I have judged that it is time to report to His Majesty.

This is not a good report, but a bad one.

They are a threat.

They are an opponent whom you should never take your eyes off.



I have to report about them.

I have discovered something new in coming to Rotsgard.

This was a valuable piece of information that I am glad to have discovered.

Now just think of this as the harvest, leave this city to report back to the demon lord.....

# Makoto Extra Story *Makoto*

*This chapter fits into the entry of chapter 154.5*

=====

The attack on the Academy city this time was huge.  
The disaster of people turning into powerful monsters.  
We thought of using this situation to increase the reputation of the Kuzunoha company because of the previous situation that was happening.  
The plan we had made worked really well, and the result of all that hard work was in front of us.  
But no matter what, something always goes wrong.  
I did not think my luck was this bad.  
Yes, again, something got in my way.  
Furthermore, it was the one thing I did not want to appear right now. It was the goddamn bug, making its appearance after a long period of absence.  
She was trying to kidnap me, kidnap!!!!  
Seriously there is absolutely no good point to that bug.  
This time I resisted against it; maybe it was because I resisted that she could not just dump me somewhere like last time. I was in the same place as when I first came to this world, a subspace palace, whose place of existence I do not know.

.....Because of the incident last time, we had prepared countermeasures against their weird power to instantly bring us to her. But it did not work. Rather, if I'd kept at it, we would've been spotted by the humans and this would have led to even more trouble.

I had a very nice talk with the bug, gave her a piece of my mind, and thanks to this opportunity, got the ability to finally talk to the humans.  
Her condition was that I save the hero at Limia and take down the Stella fort.  
She transported us to Limia in a very comfortable manner. You know, like how she sent me down before, in the beginning.  
The trip was so comfortable that I really wanted yell thank you right next to her ear while amplifying my voice with magic.  
We got thrown into the royal city of Limia.

It was at this time that I was reunited with a person I never thought would be here.

The person was a celebrity in the school and was now a hero to the Kingdom of Limia.

Hibiki-senpai

Hahaha, I wanted to laugh so much at this bad luck of mine.

After I came here, this kind of thing seemed to happen a lot.

I really wanted to ask why she was here in this world at the moment, but I swallowed my words.

This was not a bad surprise in itself. It was quite unexpected, but since I now knew what she was doing, I could be prepared later.

However, right now, another thing is making my mood much worse. To be specific, it is my clothes at the moment. Also, why is she dressed like a one of heroines in my eroges?

I could not ask her during that mess, but seriously why.....

I manage to switch my focus back to fighting the demon general that is in front of me.

I have no choice but to fight this battle.

The demon army is made up of all types of different species and has high morale, with great teamwork.

I really like this side much more than the humans.

But I still must fight them. I do not want to, but I have to.

I have to keep my promise with the goddess, but this will only be once, and I will promise to make it up to them.

I do not want to break my promises.

Besides, I had ordered Tomoe and Mio beforehand.

While we were taking care of the situation in the kingdom, I asked both of them and everyone in Asora too.

Take back Kaleneon.

The Highland Orc and Mist Lizard are personally trained by Tomoe and have experience in fighting. Also, with Mio and Tomoe there, it should be completely one-sided win.

Even though it will be one-sided, it does not mean that there will not be casualties.

Since it is a war, it is completely possible for someone to die.

But I still ordered them, knowing the consequences.

Thus, even though I like the demon side a bit more than the humans, it does not mean I will stop fighting them.

Just because it is a promise with the bug, I will not do it because it is a promise with the bug that it is not going to happen.

I have to do this.

I have to push my will through.

I will not run away this time.

I will protect the hero from the demons and take over Stella fort.

This will happen no matter what.

This is also the perfect opportunity to use the new power I got during the summer vacation.

The incident in Rotsgard

The battle in Limia

The war in Kaleneon

I will win all of them

The CEO of Kuzunoha Company is here, Have at thee.\*

\*Tlnote: oshitemairu, there many translation for this but since he is an archer I went with this one

# Lime's Passion *Lime*

*This chapter describes the events that occurred after the kidnapping and imprisonment Lime in Rotsgard (Although I do not remember now in which chapter it was...) =====*

I woke up in a prison cell...

“Will this be a good beginning for my report ... ?”(Lime)

I quickly escaped the cell and I'm now exploring the old building with the librarian from the academy that was confined with me.

I am not escaping but rather gathering information.

I am a Kuzonoha company's employee, my job in the company is intelligence officer and quasi-combatant. My name is Lime Latte.

..... I am still in the middle of the mission.

I will try to gather as much information as possible.

My main objective is to investigate details regarding the human experiments and trafficking.

This information was obtained from the demons, I am still conflicted with that part, but anything regarding the mission I have no qualms.

If it were me from a while ago then I would have not cared about this stuff and would have just said that it is their fault for being weak.

But now it is different.

I have been taught to follow the ideal.

I have been taught by the existence of power that is close enough to crush any reality.

I had that light burned in my heart in my dull and boring world.

It was my boss, the young master of the company – Raidou and his subordinates, Ane-san and Mio-san.

That is why I will not overlook it anymore.

As long as this body can still move, I have no reason to give it up.

Yes, I did lose against somebody before.

It was a ridiculously strong guy that I met on this mission.

Man... I stuck my head too deep and almost lost it, that guy had really cold eyes.

He was very different from the young master.

I had my sword and quickly slashed at him but that guy was able to stop it with his bare hands.

I used many of the tactics and attack I learned from my training with Ane-san but it was not enough, I got through and did injure him slightly but could not escape.

“Lime-san, did you hear me?”(Eva)

“Oh sorry, what is it” (Lime)

“Are you sure that the person who beat you is not here anymore?” (Eva) “... Oh no worries about that, he is gone for now.”(Lime)

“Lime-san, I do think it is better to leave this place now.”

“There is no use thinking about that kind of monster, whether he is here or not it does not matter to us. That monster could easily catch us again without any effort so right now is the only chance I have to conduct what I am here for since he is not here.”(Lime) “But we do not know if there are other people like him here though!” (Eva) But...but..but... oh god this woman is annoying.

“All the presences in this building will only amount to 20% of my strength. I could pick you up, hold you on my back or under my arm and kill them all while having a thought transmission conversation about the weather with the young master. Just listen to me for now, I have more experience in this field and I am trying to call for help right now too.”(Lime) “Help....you mean you can use thought transmission and want to contact the Kuzonoha Company?”(Eva) “If it is thought transmission then everyone in the company can use it, even the store clerks. It is an essential skill you need to have to be hired.”(Lime) This skill of

thought transmission is something that all merchants want, whether you are successful or not merchants want this on people because being able quickly communicated to the town is very useful for business, and we have everyone in the company who can use it.

Even if you are an adventurer we always look for people who can use thought transmission on a level of a few kilometers. These people are middle rank adventurers though.

“.....”(Eva)

Well now she is silent, which is nice.

This is a pleasing event.

So.....

I know the general area where the device they are using to seal the thought transmission.

I have narrowed it down to three places, huh ?

The first place is not that far away and I feel confident that it is the place with the device, the other places are decoys or traps to hide the real one.

If I destroy or shut it down then I should be able to use thought transmission again.

I do not know, if it is because I am angry that I lost or it is the sense of danger, my skill regarding searching has gotten better.

My body also has been moving better.

I am not exaggerating when saying that all these pieces of crap are an easy victory.

That is why I said we can escape later.

First I have to investigate.

“Man, I can smell all those pieces of crap from far away.”(Lime) “Huh?”(Eva)

I tried to avoid detection and move quietly, but unexpectedly my voice came out and my nose started to move.

This reaction and words are from my adventurer days, I had a keen sense of

smell and could smell any filth whether it was human or monster from far away. The hallway had a similar smell.....

“Eva-san, please stay here for a moment, I will leave a barrier for you that none of those monsters could break, so stay inside.”(Lime) “No, Lime-san, you are-“(Eva)

“I have to go over there.”(Lime)

While stopping her by putting my index finger in front of her mouth, I signaled to say there are people over there in the hallway.

There is a large amount of them there.

Is it an experiment or trafficking exchange place?

My guess is the former.

This girl seems to be kind of irritated.

There will be a battle soon, so I do not want any baggage with me then.

Also they have weapons with them too, right now I do not have the luxury to carry people since I am going to fight a lot of them.

“Lime-san, you cannot just leave a girl alone in a place like this!”(Eva) Shhhh.

I know I am using magic to suppress our sounds but seriously what is wrong with this woman, why can't women ever see the situation they are in?

“I told you, I will not be gone for long, take a nap or sit down. There is nothing that can harm you in this barrier.”(Lime) .....Also, I do not want to scar a little girl like her since nothing I am going to do right now will be pretty.

The mercenaries and security guards that will see this girl will try to take her too.

“Lime-san, there is no possible way I can take a nap here!”(Eva) “That's the spirit, now please wait just here and I will be back in a jiffy.”(Lime) I turned my bracelet into a weapon, I got this from the elder dwarves, and quickly jumped from behind the corner.

The two guys that were lookouts quickly noticed my presence and tried to pull out their swords but it was already too late.



I cut the neck of one of them enough to kill him but not make his neck fly away, ram him into the other guy and split both of them in half.

Blood splatters everywhere.

It got on me as well, but I do not care as long as it does not block my eyes.

I kick the door and look inside the room.

“.... Damn!”(Lime)

The scene in front of me was worse than my imagination.

The demi-humans were torn apart alive, transplanted organs, experiments with different body parts.....and so on.

Nothing decent in here.

There is no coming back from this.

There was one demi-human that was fine but in his eyes you could see nothing but despair.

It was the same eyes I saw in Tsige so many times, just before your death or waiting for it. All light disappears and all hope is gone.

.....Damn it!

“Even though I knew something like this.....no, calm yourself!”(Lime) I try to bring myself back from this scene by repeating words and thinking of the training with Ane-san.

But...I could not do it.

“I can’t do this.....but I am glad I could not do it.”(Lime)

Everyone!

Every single living thing here.

As a form of salvation.

I will set you free from this world.

I kill the guards who were looking over my sword which has been my partner forever.

I kill the other two that were looking at a sword that was stuck in the ground.

I kill three more people without moving a bit.

I did not mind the bright red liquid and go to the four alive subjects and put them to sleep.

I close the eyes of the last one who saw me at the end.

I still did not feel any better.

But it was a given.

I could not help anyone.

“...Ha...ha”(Lime)

I let out a sigh.

There was one woman left, she was wearing a white garment....I did not kill her yet.

“Murderer!!! I do not know what kind of thug you are but do you know what kind of place this is.....does your boss know about it!?” (Woman) Murderer, this is the first voice I heard.

Well, I guess not the first, I heard lots of screams and shrills but those were not words, so I guess it is different?

Whatever the case, this is the first time in my life that the word murderer did not fit or echo in my head so much.

“Who I am, I will tell you now.”(Lime)

Hypnosis, techniques to encourage confession and how to break down a person's spirit...I knew how to do this already.

Conveniently.....if the other party is already scared of you it is much easier.

I check if Eva-san is alright....

Ok, there are no problems.

I can do this without any interruptions.

The recovery of thought transmission will take.....five minutes.

The woman answered everything but the process did take longer than usual.

If Shiki-san was here, he could do it in a snap.

Whatever, though I wanted her to scream and shrill from fear.

Tears and a runny nose.

The woman began leaning on the wall and looking somewhere else. Soon after the wall was painted red and I left the room.

I joined Eva-san and restored the thought transmission. I contact the young master.

I did not know why but Shiki-san's mood was apparently bad and the Boss asked me about a dragon.

\*\*\*\*\*

.....End of report.....I threw out the paper.

Right now I was fighting against my toughest enemy, my report of the incident. I do not know how many times I have written and rewritten it.

I already submitted an oral report and a written report as well but I was rejected at the written report.

Shiki-san and Ane-san said that I had to resubmit it.

“This is a good opportunity Lime, in the future you will not just report things to Waka or maybe Waka will not have time to listen to your reports. So use this chance to learn how to write a good report, have Shiki guide you and correct it!”(Tomoe) “It is exactly as Tomoe-san says, I do not believe I will have time to listen to your reports in the future thus we need you to learn how to write proper reports.”(Shiki) I completely agree with them.

Just because I can't do it does not mean I should never be able to do it.

My goal in this company is to become the right-hand of Tomoe Ane-san.

In the future, the number of people who will be beside them will not decrease but actually increase.

So, if I start to slack off then someone else will take my place, I want to stay close to the boss. I am not aiming for the top but I want to be someone needed

by them.

I have to keep improving myself and acquire higher heights in both knowledge and strength. Learn to train my subordinates and keep practicing these things.

The boss is a man of power and merits.

I do not want to bring them trouble and also just stay in this position forever because I was always here.

..... It is my prediction that one of the students in the boss's class will join the Kuzunoha Company after graduating from the academy.

It is a scholarship student and an academy graduate, just by these facts alone he surpasses me in value.

I may soon become a subordinate of this guy if I do not keep up with my training and learn more skills.

I do not want to be a subordinate of anyone other than the boss and Ane-san's group.

It is exactly for this reason I know there are things I can still do to get better.

"But..... I did not think.....my opponent then.....it was a superior dragon....of course I can't beat him alone right now."(Lime) An unforgettable opponent, the cause of my defeat.

It was not even any ordinary superior dragon....it was the one people who spend their entire lives searching for and cannot find.

Man, when I am with the boss, there is never a dull moment.

The boss told me it was a dragon named Root?

Apparently it is a guy really close to the goddess.

Am I not good for managing a scratch...huh?

Am I not good for being alive...right?

Yup, I am great!

Make the important points easy to understand while putting them in bullet points.

I work on the report while praising myself over the dragon event.

Also speaking of superior dragons, the people in Tsige have poems and songs about them, those songs even tell where the superior dragons live. I am not gonna sing them though.

It is said that the Water Dragon called Waterfall lives in Limia and has a contract with the royal family since long ago. As long as people never try to invade the land it lives on it will make the land people live on fertile and rich. It is said that it can even cure the worst illness and sometimes helps the royal family out.

Crimson Light, the fire superior dragon lives far to the north in a mountain volcano. It has been said that he's the fastest creature in existence and can fly to every single place in the world in a day. The breath attack of it is also one of the most powerful attacks as well and it will make you a shooting star if you are hit by it. I do not think it will match up to the Boss though.

I think I remember part of the song mentioning the night dragon, Darkness Clad lives somewhere in a labyrinth in Lorel. I think it was east of Lorel as well too, apparently some kind of ancient city is at the bottom of that labyrinth and he has resided there for years and countless treasures exist there. Though nothing can beat the treasures here in Asora.

Also something about at the Wasteland.....but I can't remember this one at all. Well since there is 7 of them, then I am sure one is in the empire and somewhere like the Wasteland.

"But what is the top of those dragons doing at the adventure guild and working as the boss of it. The boss and Ane-san said he is the leader of the guild but did not explain why that guy was doing that. I can't imagine the top most dragon just sitting there and signing papers all day. But there is no way they would lie to me so it is true but why?"(Lime) The dragon Root seems to be the creator of the adventure guild and has been the boss of it ever since the start.

They did not go into details, but if that is true then I am quite grateful to him, up until now I was just an adventurer and quite liked that life.

It is thanks to the adventurer guild that anyone, even the lowest of the crop can become a true person and dream for a while.

That dragon, Root, visited the company a few days back, he was in the shape of a person and seems to have had a long conversation with the boss.

I felt him coming thanks to my sword, the marking ability it has was left on him and I ran to the boss to see if he was alright but I was rejected at the door.

I know that it was because no matter what I do it will not be effective against that guy.... But still I felt helpless then.

Ane-san after having that conversation with that Root guy seemed really down that day, I asked what was wrong but she did not tell me.

The boss's smile was also kind of weak.

I again felt helpless that I could not provide them comfort or even have the ability to tend an ear to them.

That is why.

Even when I am working like this, even when I am sleeping.... I start to think about what Root said to them.

The academy city will be entering summer vacation soon.

That is why the boss said the company might be a bit freer starting then.

It is at that time that I will spend most of my time with my men training.

And honestly I do not do much clerk work in the company.

Most of the clerk work is handled by the Forest Onis and the elder dwarves. I am pretty sure they can handle most of the work alone.

My subordinates, Akua and Eris are the two people that work together with me in the intelligence division. The boss did not ask me to help them grow but rather to make sure they do not go overboard.

Also those two are pleasant to be with but right now they are in a special training camp, they said they have to train like their lives depended on it or they will die.

In my case for training, I will first battle in the Wasteland by myself and ask Ane-san to give some pointers if she can.....

Ah.

Also mentioning the summer vacation.

Two girls came into my mind.

No, I do not mean as in love.

The two daughters of Rembrandt.

During the summer vacation those girls and the other students will be doing a special training and boss will do a special seminar as well for them.

The boss accepted this special seminar even though he is busy because Rembrandt told him that those girls are not going home for the summer. So he said he would do this if they go home for the second half of the summer.

I heard from Shiki-san that those two are also kind of in a bind how to train and increase their power.

I did some horrible things to those two, no to the Rembrandt family before.

The boss put a good word in for me, so the matter was forgiven because of that and I got forgiveness from Rembrandt as well.

Meaning that matter is forgotten.

But....

“The one who gave me the opportunity to ask for forgiveness was the Boss....I am truly grateful to the Boss.”(Lime) The academy and I have nothing to do with each other.

Of course I also have no intention of touching anything related to the Boss's side job as a lecturer either.

But I do not think it was a coincidence that Shiki-san told me about the sisters, who did not need to say anything to me.

I am pretty sure they were aware I was still burdened by it.....that is why they have me that chance.

Those students also went into a forest near the academy, it was quite high level for them. Apparently they got their confidence broken into pieces during that trip.

It seems the boss gave Eris a special job of tailing them during the trip in case

something went wrong. They had no injuries when they got back but had an expression that said – I am weak. Ever since then, I see them living each day more seriously and carefully than ever.

Live carefully every day, live seriously every day.

This is quite easy to say but incredibly hard to do.

I am a little jealous that those students were able to do it so early in life and they also get taught by the Boss too.

I am not sure that those girls will be able to do this when they are back in Tsige. I know that I do not have a care about the sisters anymore and will not do anything unreasonable to them either.

But I guess I can help a bit.

The place I want to train is close to there and I have absolutely no problems moving and protecting them there either.

I guess I just can't win against you boss.

Isn't this the best opportunity for me, for the many problems I have in my head right now.

Sif Rembrandt and Yuno Rembrandt.

I do not think this will atone for what I have done.

At least let me help you keep up with the others.

I will be meddling a little bit in your training boss, ok ?



# Akua's encounter with Fate *Akua*

*Between chapters 114–116*

=====

The city was very lively today.

Just before the big event that is called a school festival and right after the summer vacation over. This city, Rotsgard had a very different atmosphere than it usually does, it is much more lively and attentive than it was during the holidays.

I, the forest Oni Akua, is watching those lively people preparing for the school festival and was enjoying seeing people like this.

However, unlike those people, I am just a shop clerk at a company called Kuzunoha, selling to those students, people who have money to spend during this busy time.

Though to be honest, I did not like that I had to work more because of this so called school festival event but Waka-sama said he would give us that as a bonus for doing this extra work.

This thing was enough motivation for me to strive through these days.

It's value is quite high in Asora because Waka-sama does not distribute it yet I and my best friend Eris are both going to do our best.

That fruit is the greatest longing for us Forest Oni right now. Me and Eris have the chance to obtain large amounts of this fruit, thus we are very happy.

“Akua, why did Waka-sama remove Banana from the cup of fruit we sell, of course even though I am showing a boomerang I mean a banana, it is because we don't have any banana's on hand that I am doing this”(Eris)

Eris wondered why the cup of fruit did not have banana's.  
while telling me something really meaningless

“.....you forgot? Eris it was your fault. You always picked out the Banana's from the cup of fruit and refilled it with other fruits.”(Akua)

“....Oh ya.....why did that happen, how did I get caught. I made sure to adjust for the missing weight and the customers seemed to have no problems with

it.”(Eris)

“The customer of course did not have problem with it, they get all the profit. The company is the one losing money.”(Akua)

“But Waka-sama does not care about profit, and the humans themselves even comment they hate the bananas....stupid humans should only eat the filthy apples.”(Eris)

“Well I do agree with that sentiment....”(AKua)

“Also, it is not like I was alone in this crime, you also have this sin.”(Eris)

“Gulp.....”(Akua)

“Oh Bananas as a bonus, love you waka-sama. Maybe I will ask to be paid in advance or I know not ask for bonus but ask for them to put it back in the cup of fruits we serve. I will promise to leave one piece of banana.”(Eris)

“So, you still will take the bananas from the cup either way.....Eris should you not be out in front, changing the selves and working the rounds?”(Akua)

“I am off, the newcomer Erdoi is now on shift. I attended to the regulars and took care of most of the other work so it is fine now.”(Eris)

.....

What she said made no sense to me, but I know she does her work properly. Furthermore, there has been no complaint from the customers when she is on duty.

Though sometimes when she spots a bad customer or tough customer she completely gives them to me, but her work is always accurate and fast. I am always going at full power but Eris always seems to be one step further than me.

I always thought this was unfair but now I am glad she is like this. This is just Eris.

I know she does not mean anything bad but only does bad stuff, we grew up together and overcame that hell training camp together.

She is unmistakably my partner.

However, I do think that she has been getting the good parts lately, when she protected those students on Waka-sama's order, she got a banana as a

reward.....so unfair.....

“Eris, look your fans have come.”(Akua)

The students waka-sama teaches came to the store.

I hope they spend their summer vacation fruitfully. They often come to the store to hear Eris’s stories.

Since the time they were saved by Eris, they seem to stick to her like glue, they even come when we went for training yesterday. I know they did a special training camp with Waka-sama.

But we who have been trained by Tomoe-sama and Hime Komoe nightmare training camp are way over these students who have only seen the surface of the iceberg. I heard their lectures are quite tough in terms of human standards and that Shiki-sama only uses healing magic to heal serious injuries only.

“Well I guess it is time for me take off and tell some stories to these young’uns ja no”(Eris)

“Are you trying to imitate Tomoe-sama? It’s terrible”(Akua)

“Well enough of that but right now since Waka-sama and Shiki-sama are off to the temple, we are in charge of the company, hahahah.”(Eris)

“....Please do not bother the other customers.”(Akua)

Even though I said that I know she will not follow my words.

The other day someone from the temple came over and told waka-sama and Shiki-sama to come over to the temple of the goddess.

It seems that they want to know how to make the medicine we sell over here. ....I can already see the outcome though.

All their aims and plans are a complete waste.

Even if they found out what and how to make it, they will never be able to sell at the price we sell it at.

The materials, success rate, price of delivery, and the abundant amount of failure will skyrocket their price.

They can maybe make 1 in 100 tries but never will they set the price as the same as ours.

This is just harassment to them, Waka-sama.

I wonder why they acted now, is it because of that rumor of a top official of the

church dying because of heavenly punishment.

Or is it because of the school festival....

Well since the other party is our Waka-sama, there is no way for them harass us and make things difficult for us.

“Well, I should start work now, I also have to do Eris’s work as well”(Akua)

Even though I said this, I never thought this random choice would lead me to the greatest moment in my life.

\*\*\*\*

Ahhhhhh...!

I just cried from the bottom of my heart.

A marvelous flavor takes control of my mouth.

Even though it looks really close to plain milk, the taste is heavenly.

My tongue is in complete ecstasy from the cold cool liquid entering my mouth, the texture of the milk going through my teeth and then passing through my throat.

I have always respected Waka-sama’s battle ability.

But now that is irrelevant.

I worship him for his true skill, his culinary genius.

I have always thought that banana’s when eaten should be alone.

My partner tries a variety of ways to find out the best way to eat a banana but all ends in failure.

But now.....

This Banana Milk!!!!

While taking the incredible taste of banana’s and mixing it with the fine taste of milk thus mixing the two flavors to create a mysterious and harmonious combination. If it was Eris who had drunk this first I am sure she would say “Marvelous”

He taught this weird word

I call it Eris’s language.

For some reason Waka-sama is able to understand these mysterious words.

Fruits and Milk

Waka-sama is the true god of this world.

Unknown ideas

With this product, we forest Oni are able to fight for the next 10000 years.  
And to think I am the first Forest Oni to taste this  
This has been the greatest moment of my life.  
I did give some to Eris but now it seems she is in the same trance as me.  
The reason why I got to drink this first is because when Waka-sama and Shiki-sama came back, I told them about Eris stupidity and foolish behavior.  
I wanted to get revenge at Eris  
But now I am truly thankful that she committed such stupidity.  
Simply Great.

At a later date, all of the Kuzunoha company went to our favorite store, Gotetsu and had a big party. Waka-sama at the beginning of that party commended my work. I was completely in awe of him.

I am truly happy.

For some reason, even though they don't drink, Mio-sama, Tomoe-sama and Shiki-sama all started drinking like fishes.

I was making the nabe and distributing it. I also was in charge of the banana Milk.

Because of this fact I was satisfied at being in charge of the nabe.

School Festivals huh, this is not that bad.

I am glad it is only once a year but I quite like this now.

.....even though, it has become quite chaotic now.

Today's party was conducted at a private room in the back of Gotetsu.

Because of this fact Tomoe-sama, Mio-sama, and Shiki-sama became complete drunks and were starting to fight each other.

Oh, Waka-sama escaped the room.

“Oh, no it is fine.....our guys are having fun.....if you guys are, then it means this party is a success. One question though, how did the banana milk in the nabe taste.”(Makoto)

Waka-sama looking at the empty glass in my hand with a very complicated expression

Waka-sama, Thank you for the Banana Milk it is the greatest.

“I love this milk Waka-sama! It is so much better than any meal and drink!”(AKua)

“.....I see that Akua is also drunk, by the way, what is Eris doing? She is looking really carefully at the glass and meat.”(Makoto)

Huh

I wonder why he said that.

I have not drank much tonight.

The elder drank a lot, but me and Eris did not drink that much sake but a lot of Banana Milk

“Eris is wondering why the meat and sweet drinks combine so well together and how to add some spice to it.”(Akua)

“.....is everyone but me drunk?”(Makoto)

“Huh, Waka-sama?”(Akua)

Waka-sama for some reason looked at the ceiling and started to move to another place.

By the way, I was asked by a customer what the letter written on the signboard of the store mean.

Even though it did not lead to any trouble thus I had no reason to report.....i got a little worried.

I will tell Waka-sama at a later date.

We wrote that on the request of Waka-sama and we are supposed to say this line as well when people ask.

I believe it was that it is written as Kuzunoha and read Kuzunoha.

“Akua”(Eris)

“What is it, Eris”(AKua)

“Did you notice?”(Eris)

“What?”(Akua)

“The School festival has started.”(Eris)

“Yup”(Akua)

“In other words, there is a high chance of Waka-sama making a new recipe to rival this one!”(Eris)

“!?”(AKua)

“If something like this appears again, it will cause a revolution for the forest Oni.”(Eris)

“.....That is true.”(Akua)

“We...Have..to...tell...everyone....”(Eris)

“Eris, why are you struggling?”(Akua)

“Don’t worry, just leave it to me.”(Eris)

I wonder if such a thing is possible?

I am in doubt.

But it is Waka-sama thus I can never really predict him.

Well, in any case after today’s party, I am in full throttle for tomorrow.

Come on, Customers

I will make sure to serve you all until the last day.

I was completely conscious when making this decision.

# Princess of Gritonia *Lily*

*Between chapters 151–157*

=====

“Are the repairs finished?” (Lily)

Having teleportation restored was the reason why the Empire’s princess was so angry.

This type of reaction was quite unreasonable even though she was a princess, but given the current situation it was understandable to everyone.

This was the city Robin, it was one of the frontier cities of the empire.

This city was a key city to the empire even though it was very far from the capital.

However, she was able to instantly teleport from Rotsgard, which was exactly the same distance Robin was from the empire.

If she was able to teleport in such a way again then she would have made to the capital already.

This was one of the reasons for the anger in her voice.

Another reason was because of the situation currently happening in the empire.

The demons launched a surprise attack.

The demons, who were supposed to be hold up in Fort Stella, have launched a simultaneous surprise attack on both the Kingdom of Limia and the Empire of Gritonia while the leaders of both parties were at the Rotsgard school festival.

Princess Lily who received such a report was both shocked and worried.

She did not know if it was a coincidence or not, but thanks to the Kusunoha Company being in Rotsgard, she was able to teleport to Robin in an instant.

This was obviously good luck that she had received, to be able escape from the situation happening in Rotsgard and come to Robin, but this luck did not extend to the attack that was going on in the capital right now.

She had to return to the capital quickly.

This was the only thought she had in her mind.

The princess of Gritonia was returning to the capital even though all the other nobles and people related to the royal family have evacuated from the city.



The reason she had to return was simple.

The capital had several things that she could not let go of right now.

The hero of the empire, Tomoki Iwahashi.

A partner for Lily in her war against the demons.

There were also a number of research studies that were being conducted in order to enhance his power.

This tool of her could not be broken right now. It also could not be taken away by the demons.

Thus Princess Lily must return to the capital.

She has already thought of the words and voices that would protest this, but she must secure the city by herself.

The Princess knows that the hero was fighting on the frontlines to protect the capital and would not try to escape.

“(I have to use Tomoki to eliminate the demons..... but I cannot let him die though, that is why even 1 second is precious)”(Lily)

Lily paced around the room, burning with impatience.

Suddenly a figure appeared in her head, it was the representative of the Kuzunoha Company.

Even though that person looked unreliable at first, that group itself had an immense power that posed a clear threat to them if it were to become an enemy.

That was the view of Princess Lily for the group called the Kuzunoha Company. The leader was a man named Raidou, he was a person that looked plain at first glance.

But he and his follower took out most of the mutants in the attack that happened in Rotsgard and was clearly both a top-class magician and had top-class equipment that would not lose to any nation.

Rotsgard was fine now, with those people handling it, but now the situation turned for the worse.

Nevertheless.

The Kuzunoha Company did not show any anxiety or impatience.

Even though the entire city was in panic, their employees did not show any signs fear or despair and moved like this was a picnic.

Furthermore, in this disastrous situation, they gave both the Kingdom and

Empire their extremely advanced technique of teleportation for aid.

The power of the students Raidou had taught were all incredible.

They had surprised Lily many times .

The simple level raising system Tomoki had created for the soldiers in the empire was working very well.

They were increasing their level at a high rate and were able to become a large war potential. They were even willing to die for Tomoki, if need be, too.

But the students Raidou had taught were far above those soldiers.

Even though it was for educational purposes, students gaining that much power was excellent for the humans side.

She felt both happy and worried.

The many achievements and abilities of Raidou..... she could not see the end even now.

The existence that was known as the Kuzunoha Company left a deep impression on her.

“(If he was our hero instead of Tomoki....I wonder what would have happened?)”(Lily)

If.

A possibility.

A word that she rarely ever spoke of.

Nevertheless, Lily imagined such a scenario.

She did not know why though.

Lily quickly shook her head and drove out such weird ideas.

She could say this for sure though, the Abnormalities that were Raidou and the Kuzunoha Company were something that she would encounter in the future a lot.

“Princess, the path is ready!”

“Good! I will hurry to the capital. Have you gotten hold of the current situation?”(Lily)

“No Ma’am. Demon attacks of magic have disrupted our communications so no clear information has been able to come through!”

“How is the hero! Report to me immediately about the hero’s situation!”(Lily)

“Yes, I understand!”

Lily was currently transferring from relay city to relay city. All of the cities were fixed to do this and were warping her to the capital as fast as possible. That is why the soldier in Robin had said the route had been fixed.

“What?”(Lily)

As she was walking to the next circle of teleportation, Lily stopped and looked out the window.

She had seen a light in the corner of her eye, which was unusual at this time. After a while, she felt an incredible heat and vibration pass through her body.

“.....What is the situation now?”(Lily)

A unpleasant premonition crept up on her. She felt that Tomoki had used one of the secret weapons she had ordered him not to use without her permission. The words she spoke were not directed towards anyone, thus everyone was slightly concerned.

“Yes Ma’am! Reporting, we have confirmed a large explosion in the direction of the light..... We have no other information.”

“Shit!”(Lily)

The princess knew the meaning of the light. Instead of saying that kind of report was useless, she had already understood what had happened. She quickly got on to the next teleport circle and her followers quickly chased her there as well.

“(Tomoki! I told you not to use the Nuke without my permission! That is still too dangerous and too important of a weapon to reveal! You have exposed one of our greatest secrets to the world in this state of events!)”(Lily)

She had returned to the capital. The princess had finally come back home. Only to find a mountain of the worst-case scenario reports coming like it wanted to crush her. Her nightmare had begun.

\*\*\*\*\*

“Ginebia, Mora, Yukinastu...”

Lily looked at the 3 women that were dying.

Lily, who had just come back, was first told of the situation regarding these 3 women.

They were the women who protected the Hero from serious injury.

There was no mistake in this report.

The words “serious injuries” were lukewarm compared to what those 3 people suffered.

Rather than saying that the three of them did well in not dying, she would rather say that the Hero did well in surviving by using them.

“Princess we will treat them to the our best of our abilities. We believe that they can make a full recovery even now, but I will say some scars will.....”(Doctor)

“I will not forgive anything other than a full recovery There will be no scars or injuries. They are all important lovers of the Hero, so please do your best before saying such foolish things”(Lily)

Lily dismissed the opinion of the royal doctors.

“Of course Princess, we will do our best, but even then we cannot restore them to perfect condition. I know I said I believe they can make full recovery, but I mean in time, not instantly.....”(Doctor)

“....Are you seriously spouting such nonsense in front of me? Doing you best? Use the tear of Luca that is in stock for me and the hero.”(Lily)

As the doctor was giving her opinion as pro in this field, the princess said something impossible to cut her off.

“But Princess that is the secret medicine used only on the royal family and the hero in case of emergencies, even if they are close to the hero...”(Doctor)

“Heal them. No excuses. Use my part of the tears of Luca. I will not allow anyone of them to die. If anyone of them is not in perfect health, then everyone here, including all their families, will be sentenced to death .”(Lily)

“Ah!”

“Now, quickly get to the treatment because your life depends on it.”(Lily)

“.....”

“Now.”(Lily)

Lily said that last part in a low voice.

The woman, who was the leader of the medical unit, started preparations to use the finest magical drug they possessed.

The team started the procedure in an incredible rush.

“(You three will be saved, you will return to the Hero’s side, and protect him again. As you have protected him, I have the duty of protecting you three. I want you three to continue to protect him to increase your hatred towards the demons and die in place of hero again.”(Lily)

The unprecedented use of the secret medicine, the princess was not concerned with that right now.

The medicine was just another tool to the princess .

She had judged that their three lives were more valuable to her right now.

But by flipping this coin, you could also able to say if she saw no value in saving their lives at this moment, than she would not have cared a single bit.

However, few people think like this, thus many of the people in the room were moved by this action and wanted to serve the princess even more.

Lily knew this type of misunderstanding would happen, but did not try to correct it.

Because even this type of thinking is beneficial to her. This would allow people to be used more easily.

“Princess, the hero’s whereabouts are still unknown.... I am sorry.”

“The light from before.”(Lily)

“What?” (Knight)

While the medical unit was treating the women, a knight walked up to lily and reported about the hero.

But this answer, Lily already knew it.

She stopped the words of the knight and told him where the hero was.

“Was there a strong burst of light a while ago?” (Lily)

“Yes, Princess.” (Knight)

“There should be a crater there now. In the center should be the Hero, Tomoki-sama.” (Lily)

“Yes, Princess.” (Knight)

“Hurry up and go fetch him . Send a rescue team and bring Tomoki-sama here quickly. I am expecting great things from you, Earl.” (Lily) [Earl as in his name, not the title.]

“Yes Princess. We will, for sure, save the Hero.” (Earl)

Lily gave support to the man and called out his name, to indicate that she knew him and she would tell his deeds to the Hero.

Earl, who understood such things from the princess, left much more quickly than when he arrived.

“(It should not take much effort in rescuing Tomoki-sama since he has used the Nuke. I do not believe that they will have any sort of trouble in rescuing him..... but I am worried since thought transmission is still not connecting to him. The enemy was that much of a threat that he had to use a Nuke, so the enemy should have died as well.)” (Lily)

Tomoki had to use a Nuke on the enemy, his trump card, so the enemy must have been incredibly strong.

He had let Ginebia, who had suffered a serious injury, escape and used the Nuke outside the capital’s territory.

If the enemy was still alive after that, then they would have invaded the city is what the princess had judged.

She knew how powerful a Nuke truly was.

She also knew the price of that power.

“(It is alright right now since Tomoki cannot be killed at night. He seems to be hiding, but that is pointless, really. Being a hero is plainly how much you received the goddess’s blessings.)” (Lily)

The princess mouth started to form a smile.

(In any case, to deal with the Hero of Limia, Hibiki, it will be quite a troublesome matter. If Tomoki's eyes work, then I believe there should be no problems, but as it was with the Kuzunoha Company's Tomoe, he is still weak in terms of that power.)”(Lily)

The princess was thinking of how to proceed after finishing the war with the demons. Her next step was a war with the other humans.

No, Tomoki would start this war.

The most troublesome obstacle would be the other hero in the kingdom of Limia, Otonashi Hibiki.

How to dispose of this woman still eluded Lily.

“Princess. A new report has come in. A suspicious explosion, near the southern section of the city, has occurred. There is a possibility that the demons have already invaded this far. Please retreat.”

“What? An explosion.....tell me more.”(Lily)

“It was in an area where the demons have yet to reach. It seems that one of the mansions has suddenly exploded. The people of that area have already been evacuated, thus we have no casualties. Princess please hurry and retreat”

“Ha....”

“Princess, please hurry!”

“....No, there is no need to retreat. Investigate the owner of that mansion and all surrounding people. Also investigate the nobles and royal family members who left right before the attack and all the people who evacuated early.”(Lily)

“Princess?”

“Tomoki-sama will soon arrive here, thus I cannot leave this place. Please do what I asked, as soon as possible.”(Lily)

“But, Princess the demons are still attacking. They may quickly attack the capital as well!”

“No, that will not happen if the reports and my predictions are correct.”(Lily)

“.....Princess?”

“The demons will soon retreat.... No, they have already started to

retreat.”(Lily)

Lily, in a serious expression, answered the man who escorted her to the imperial capital. Her expression showed confidence in her predictions.

“Yes, conducted those investigations in secret and try to be as fast as possible.”(Lily)

“Yes, Princess.”

She ordered the man again. This time the man did not object and quickly left the room.

Having turned away from him leaving and looking back at the three women. Lily bit her lip in frustration.

“(Yes, the demon’s true target is the kingdom……. You sure have underestimated my empire by a lot. I will find all those who are linked with you people and make sure to not leave a single relative left.)”(Lily)

A deep and cold hatred had taken root in her heart.

The existence of such an intruder was just her conjecture from all the available information.

She believed the real goal of the demons was the Kingdom.

Her hatred wanted to let Tomoki loose to kill all the demons immediately, but this could not happen.

The essential hero and party of the hers were missing and injured. The rebuilding of the capital also must happen too.

A red streak of blood flowed down from her lips and the princess continued to receive reports.

“Princess”

“Princess”

“Princess”

Voices wishing to report their findings, one after another reached Lily.

The princess wiped the blood from her lips and looked back at the servants that came.

She continued to give instructions to them as if nothing was wrong with her.

Her heart was completely dyed in darkness.



A report that indicated the retreat of the demon forces came in and the entire castle shouted in relief.

Lily, this entire time, had smiled once.

The unconscious Hero, Tomoki arrived at the castle.

Right before putting on the act of reunion, Lily looked at the down Tomoki coldly.

“(What a miserable sight, you are useless even at such an important time. This will be the last time you will be useless though. My empire being used as a decoy is unacceptable, though I do hope the demons succeed in killing the hero of the kingdom. The ideal situation would be that the hero takes down the demons two general with her.)”(Lily)

The madness of the Princess of Gritonia was increasing, as she further went down this path of hatred, her strength would also increase.

# Rembrandt and Zara at the school festival

## *Rembrandt and Zara*

*Between chapters 119–133*

=====

The biggest event in the world right now is the Rotsgard Academy’s festival.

This was originally supposed to be a commemoration for founding of the academy but now after a long time became a school festival.

However, even though the name changed, it is not like the scale of the event went down.

It became even more large-scale than last year, with people from the highest status coming to visit as guests.

The number of people who come here to visit the town for sightseeing purposes also increases during this time and the students had started to prepare for this event several months in advance.

This is the time the town is booming and the liveliest.

“It has been a long time since I have come to this neighborhood.”  
(Rembrandt)

“Why do you talk like it is nostalgic, you did not even spend that much time here.” (Zara)

“No, it is not that. I am talking about the times and memories I have; where this town caused me such difficulties.... you know, during the time I was a smaller peddler.” (Rembrandt)

“Oh.... you still remember that era of our time?” (Zara)

“I could never forget the humiliation, bitterness and despair I felt, the sorrowful history in my perfect life as a merchant.....I had many of these moments in this town.” (Rembrandt)

“Then why did you leave and go to Tsige, such a remote city? I wanted the two of us to build our lives here but one day you just left without even trying to give me an explanation.” (Zara)

“.....I had various reasons for doing that back then.....well, it does not matter now...” (Rembrandt)

“True, it does not matter now, but I still want to hear that story from your mouth. I want to know why all the blood, sweat and tears we spent just disappeared into thin air. You just took all your stuff and left. That mystery haunts me even now.” (Zara)

The city was bustling, look at any street and you could see this to be true. The two men were viewing the town from on top of a large building. They looked down and watched the city but did not let their eyes meet yet. This was the Rotsgard’s merchant guild building. It was the best reception room this guild had to offer, with luxurious furnishings filling the room.

One man was a merchant who had come to see his daughters’ growth. Another was the representative of the merchant guild of Rotsgard. The guild representative will not meet with just any merchant but this man with him was not any other merchant. He was Patrick Rembrandt, the merchant who makes a living and is still alive while doing business at the wastelands.

“.... huh, stop being so uptight, Zara. We are not young anymore, let us sit down.” (Rembrandt)

“This is something I should say to you, not the other way around. Has that remote city robbed you of your courtesy as well?” (Zara)

“I felt that you weren’t going to say it anytime soon so I took the liberty of saying it.” (Rembrandt)

“...haaaa” (Zara)

“I am not here to negotiate any deals with you today, come on let us sit down, we are old friends.” (Rembrandt)

“If we are old friends, then why are we skipping the part of talking about the old times, you even gave me some baggage to deal with as well.” (Zara)

The man named Zara all this time did not let go of his serious expression, unlike the other person, Rembrandt, who was clearly in quite a happy mood.

“Baggage? What are you talking about? Well, why don’t we discuss it together, I have a lot of time today so let’s talk slowly.” (Rembrandt)

“Oh, don’t worry old friend, I will definitely take you up on that offer.” (Zara)

As he sighed, Zara sat down on the sofa opposite of Rembrandt. Both of the sofa were worth a fortune on their own. The transparent crystal table is worth more than one can afford in their lifetime too. Neither Zara nor Rembrandt felt out of place, they were both quite relaxed and seemed used to being around such luxury items.

“Come on, you have just been reunited with an old friend, act a bit more pleased at least. If there is a misunderstanding between us, we can just laugh at it together, here you take the first laugh.”(Rembrandt)

“.....” (Zara)

“Ok, this looks like the first meeting between distant cousins. Fine, I will show you something special, a portrait of my daughter. Be careful though, one look and you may fall under her charm in an instant.”(Rembrandt)

Rembrandt tries to take out a palm sized portrait from his pocket. Zara signs stop with his left hand and starts massaging his forehead with his right. He was trying to suppress a headache.

“... I think you are forgetting which school those two go to, I do not need to look at a portrait, I often see them pass by the guild.” (Zara)

“Oh true, well what do you think, they are both beautiful as Lisa aren’t they?” (Rembrandt)

“...Yes, I do agree that they have inherited their beauty from their mother.... but they also inherited their father’s strange habits.” (Zara)

“Oh, the other day they wore a dress and did this beautiful dance. I have to say the education at this academy is quite good, although I have no idea about their battle prowess but I believe in their lecturer.” (Rembrandt)

“I do worry about your daughter Yuno, she is too honest.... this behavior

might lead her to danger but I don't believe anything will happen. After all she is still a Rembrandt and I don't think anyone in this city will try to pick a fight with you." (Zara)

"....." (Rembrandt)

"Well, I do think that they were beautiful when they danced.....I wonder if they will go to Gritonia or Limia to study further....." (Zara)

".... Hey, those are my daughters you know? Aren't you being a bit too creepy, how do you know that they pass by this street every day, I thought you would be busy with work...how do you know about Yuno's honest behavior and her dress...Is it alright to hit you about a 1000 times?" (Rembrandt)

"Hey, wait, wait! This a misunderstanding, I spotted them sometimes while I am on break. I know they are your daughters thus I have placed several people to look after them during their stay here in the academy. And that dress comment I just heard it from some friends afterwards, it is just coincidence.... I did not go to that party!" (Zara)

"Is it because they are Lisa's daughters.....you're not thinking of anything strange right?" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt's voice was low but his words were cold. His stance in this line of questioning is to probe Zara intentions.

"Patrick, I am a really old man, even if I do go for the girls, they have to first graduate." (Zara)

"Hmm, ok if it is graduate girl..... wait a minute, Sif is only five years from a graduate student's age!" (Rembrandt)

"That makes a huge difference in the world of adults! Calm down!" (Zara)

They fought for several minutes before returning to the sofas. They were breathing heavily. It was a very lively conversation between two merchants. Most of the conversations between merchants are stiff and dangerous with the atmosphere being so tense you can cut it with a knife.

"Well, I finally understand that my best friend has become a child liking pervert, but you being at the dance was natural thus I will forgive it."

(Rembrandt)

"I am not a child liking pervert and I thank you for finally understanding. I am a single man who actively socializes with women." (Zara)

"Did you see...Lisa?" (Rembrandt)

"Yes, she was beautiful as ever." (Zara)

"... Never mind, I am going to continue hitting you." (Rembrandt)

"Patrick, we have to continue the conversation." (Zara)

"Ok." (Rembrandt)

"I, out of consideration for you, did not call out." (Zara)

"... yes, that is true.... I am sorry old friend" (Rembrandt)

"It is fine." (Zara)

"However, you sure are under pressure, the festival has so many world leaders coming. I saw the prince of Limia, princess of Gritonia, two generals from Aion and lady Sairitz from Lorel at the party." (Rembrandt)

"Yes, I have also been informed that his Majesty, the King of Limia, will also be coming." (Zara)

"Him as well....! It is about 20 years since the last time he came here hasn't it?" (Rembrandt)

"It's for sure that this year the visiting people have much higher status than usual. We do get kings and queens of small and medium sized countries as a regular thing but the king of a major power coming is quite a surprise." (Zara)

"Well, for you it is a happy opportunity for business?" (Rembrandt)

"Yes, but only to me, the others have been scared off, you know why that is?" (Zara)

"Of course, "this is too dangerous, dealing with such major power and not enough profit, too much risk" right?" (Rembrandt)

"Yes, it is fine to make a greeting and then leave the stage. But this time we have a fool who does not know that here." (Zara)

“.....” (Rembrandt)

“A fool who got introduced due to a letter of introduction from a certain someone in this room. I have to now deal with that baggage.” (Zara)

“..... ku” (Rembrandt)

Zara started to mention Raidou. Rembrandt trying to hold back his laughter showed a weird smile.

“What is wrong?” (Zara)

“Oh nothing, please continue.” (Rembrandt)

“That baggage does not even come to the local meeting or the regular guild meeting of the town. I would understand if he was the representative of a big company but he has only one store and even if I count the one at your city, it is still only two. He is acting too hasty and risky.” (Zara)

“But, isn’t that only because that person is a lecturer at the academy and he cannot make it to the meetings.” (Rembrandt)

“...I do not know why you are not mentioning his name even though this is clearly your fault but I will play along..... I am fine with him being a lecturer at the academy and we can make accommodations according to this if he informs us...” (Zara)

Zara who was trembling with anger continues.

“But he does not do this and sends this young man named Shiki...or these two women. Many people have come up to me to complain about him and want to attack him directly. This will be bad for him. I have succeeded in keeping such people down but then another problem came. A letter from the Church saying that we have to force that guy to increase the price of the medicine they sell and when we asked them for the manufacturing method, they gave us this impossibly high priced method. There is no way for such a small company to do this thus I am stuck at what to do with him.” (Zara)

“Oh Shiki-dono, he is fine man is he not?” (Rembrandt)

“Oh, yes he’s a fine man.... quite smart and competent...I wonder how such a baggage was able obtain him. Also that demi-human woman, she is also a

competent person, I want to take her away from him.” (Zara)

“Fuf, I see.” (Rembrandt)

“Anyway, the executives in this town are fed up with him and want to get rid him completely including that other shop. I stopped them for now but I do not think I can keep it up any longer. I will be honest here, I am going to crush his store here in this town and give that baggage back to you.” (Zara)

“What?” (Rembrandt)

“I personally think that for him it will be better if he becomes a doctor or a medicine man, not a merchant. I also think he should become an adventurer so when he comes back to your town, tell him these things.” (Zara)

“That.... I wonder....” (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt dismissed his old friend’s proposal and thought:

(As expected he is still that word Raidou-dono described to me – “tsundere”.)

“Patrick, what were you thinking of sending that baggage over here...he is clearly unfit to be a merchant.” (Zara)

“I wonder.... He is someone who wants to help everyone who is suffering under the curse disease. His ultimate goal in life or as a merchant is to eliminate all diseases from this world thus I do not believe he will quit being a merchant, Raidou-dono will not quit.” (Rembrandt)

“Suffering from the curse disease..... I understand why you want to put your weight behind that..... but entirely eliminating diseases is beyond the power of any merchant, it is not even realistic.” (Zara)

The words spoken about the curse disease from his old friend clearly affected Zara.

Zara knows the relation between that disease and his old friend thus was stuck in between words.

“Yes I agree it is unrealistic...but it is because of that person that my family is able to laugh once more.” (Rembrandt)

“.... He was the one who provided the ruby eyes? I could not get exact information.... but that is the reason you are siding with him, huh? I do agree if



he is at that level of an adventurer then he is more than qualified to be a lecturer.” (Zara)

“Although you are close, it is a little different. I do agree that he does possess a tremendous amount of promise as an adventurer.” (Rembrandt)

“What is different?” (Zara)

“Oh, let me leave it at that. Zara I will say this; he is the person I could not become.... thus I want to see what lies at the end of the path I chose not to follow.” (Rembrandt)

“I do not know what you mean Patrick, I will bring Raidou here once.... I am sorry but I will crush him at that time. I will make sure that no one touches anything he does in your city though.” (Zara)

“.....Zara, I will tell you this now, this is a bad deal. You can still change it.” (Rembrandt)

“No, Patrick, this is the conclusion of the guild and I do not believe he will be able to manage doing business here.” (Zara)

“I truly wonder about that?” (Rembrandt)

“Patrick, I do understand that you want to help your savior but!” (Zara)

“Zara.... those people who complained about Raidou-dono, can they compete with my company?” (Rembrandt)

“.... You...you will go that far.... of course not, if it's you then they will instantly back away and leave him alone forever. This city's relationship with Tsige is essential for business.” (Zara)

“Really?” (Rembrandt)

“Pat, I do not believe this will be good for Raidou....” (Zara)

“Oh no, I am not going to do anything yet.... just I will say this to you now.....if Raidou-dono ever says that I helped him out a lot and that my company owes him a debt that it can never pay, it is the truth.” (Rembrandt)

“You....” (Zara)

“If Raidou-dono ever says he uses the transportation method we use at our

company that is also the truth. If Raidou-dono even says that my daughters have asked for his hand in marriage, then that is also the tru...th” (Rembrandt)

“Patrick” (Zara)

“And if he ever says that he has the complete backing of my Rembrandt company, this is the absolute truth. If they have a problem with this tell them to go and see the representative at this branch of my company. We will welcome all who are willing to do business with Raidou...We will crush anyone trying to harm Raidou as well though.... this will be the line I will order my representative to say to them.” (Rembrandt)

“...Do you have to go so far?” (Zara)

“Zara, this is just if Raidou ever mentions any of the things I said before.....I doubt he will though. He is a sweet young man and tries to not rely on other people much. I feel this is somewhat lonesome. I will tell Raidou that you called him here, he will surely come.” (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt got up and quietly left the room. Rembrandt Company fully supports the Kuzunoha Company and will crush anyone who tries to harm it. He said so. Zara did not know that the Church retracted their statements and started to leave the Kuzunoha Company alone. He was filled with humiliation and irritation at himself for not being able to see the core of the Kuzunoha Company. Whenever he sees the representative of the company he feels that Raidou is too immature. Even if he’s a top notch adventurer, he’s a 3<sup>rd</sup> rate merchant. He cannot keep his company alive with these methods.

“I wonder if my friend has gotten soft after experiencing that horrible situation. I know that his city is not an easy one to live in and he has become successful. I am really sorry to see you in this state Pat.” (Zara)

He got up and started to look down the street again. He saw his friend leave the guild and the day turning to night.

The festival starts tomorrow.

“I will listen to you, old friend. If he mentions your name in our conversation, then I will immediately retreat and convince all those executives to leave him alone by using that method. But, old friend, if he was such a person from the

start then I do not believe he would be in this mess.” (Zara)

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The fighting competition.

The first highlight of the school festival. This is a place where the students fight both one on one and as a group to show off the techniques they have learned in the academy. Students also do this to help the officials from other countries remember their names and faces for a chance at a brighter future.

The audience is also happy to see the student fight. The venue is always full of people and the preliminary 1v1 are the first day highlight. The betting who will win in this competition is fierce and always brings in massive amounts of money.

“Are you finished with your business, Zara” (Bishop)

“It was some foolish individual causing problems; he will leave after this.”  
(Zara)

“Well that is good, the archbishop is very intently watching the matches.”  
(Bishop)

“Intently at the matches?” (Zara)

(Just remembering that conversation with Raidou pisses me off. Actually I am way more pissed at Patrick for fully supporting that kid. But I cannot show that here. I was called here by the archbishop of Limia. He usually does not care about these matches and just attends for face but right now I can see him really intently watching the matches, why?)

“Well, it is not just the archbishop who is watching these matches intently, the King of Limia, the princess of Gritonia and other nobles too are watching these matches carefully.” (Bishop)

“Well, I am glad for the students then, they are giving it their best.” (Zara)

(Every year, the students battle is quite high level....is it the same this year? Oh, there is the son of the Hopelace family. I believe he is the top contender for this year’s winner. There are many Hopelace families in the world but the one in Limia is quite special. That idiot Raidou also caused problems for the Hopelace

family. They came to the guild many times wanting to shut down his business. There is an iron rule when dealing with the kingdom of Limia, the Hopelace family is on equal standing with the royal family. They are a family that can move the country on their own and have a vast territory within the kingdom. And that idiot caused problems with them. I investigated and saw they had no prior dealings with them. To cause problems with the Hopelace means that you cannot do business in Limia. It is just another proof of that guy's stupidity.)

“Well, I doubt he is even aware of this problem.” (Zara)

“What is it?” (Bishop)

“Oh nothing, archbishop, please excuse me for now I have some other business I must attended to.” (Zara)

The archbishop that came to Rotsgard from Limia is only looking at the matches.

(In my opinion, this woman is quite dangerous and ambitious. I have no doubt that she wants to reach the top, and wants to do it fast. I guess that is why she is paying so much attention to the child of Hopelace's match.)

“No, please stay, look over there.... I believe it will interest you greatly.” (Bishop)

The bishop points to the matches with his finger. The space were the guards and the guests are all watching the matches....

(No, they were tranced by the matches, why?)  
I do not have much interest in fighting to begin with but I cannot disregard this invitation.

“Hmm, I will do as you say.” (Zara)

“Well.... oh ok, I remember that some daughter of a merchant made it to the finals and won.....I think it was a merchant from the wasteland?” (Bishop)

“!”

(Rembrandt? Sif and Yuno made it to the finals? I did not get such a report. Hmmm.....)

(TLnote: These are random spectators thus no name is there)

“Impossible, a kick from there?!”

“That casting speed is completely unfair.... they cancel it partly and use only the needed parts.... that power too!”

“Every one of them has a complete grasp of each other’s skill and does not let the other party finish their casting!”

The knights and mercenaries are all looking terrified at the students’ matches.

(Come on, I get they are students from the academy but losing to these people. How deplorable.)

“Looks like Illumgand of the Hopelace family will lose” (Bishop)

(What?)

“The group fights are all just them....no normal adventurer can beat these people.”

“This is not a fight; it is a one sided massacre!”

“I really do not want to fight them with the same number, I would rather carry my employer and runaway.”

“Really.... well I would do the same, this school must be really impressive if it can create kids like these.”

“Even though it is 3 on 7 they are completely overwhelming them. The two people who are the vanguard are constantly attacking, while the other person in back is in complete sync with them.”

“I really want to meet their teacher.”

“I think everyone does now. I can see people asking the academy officials for more information. But I think it is impossible that one person taught those 7 people, right?”

I look at the students that they were talking about. It was a party fight organised by the academy. Hopelace’s kid is in danger.

“....” (Zara)

I watch the match and the individuals in it. I saw Yuno there and two other boys. They are overwhelming the opponents. Even I who know nothing about

fighting can see this. I wonder if it's because I can see the stadium as a whole. The 3 students cut, beat and take down the other 7. They do not let them use sword arts or magic and cut them off quickly. It was indeed a massacre. Really. Most of the guests are watching this match, aren't they? They are trying to get more information and recruit these people. And moreover the teacher of these students.

I already know who that teacher is.

Yuno's favorite teacher.

Raidou.....

He's also Sif's favorite.

"No way, he taught these people?" (Zara)

"Hmm?" (Bishop)

"Oh no, it is nothing, I am just saying how marvelous these students are."  
(Zara)

I got a lot of glares when I blurted that line out, thankfully no one heard what I had said then.

"I am truly astonished by this, who won the individuals matches?" (Zara)

"The swordsman's division runner-up was the Hopelace's child" (Bishop)

Illumgand in my eyes is very good. The Hopelace sword skill is increasing every year  
and someone was able to beat him.

"The winner of the swordsman division was that boy up there."

"Huh?" (Zara)

Another woman adventurer told me who won the swordsman division. It was the boy that is quite tall and is waving that wooden sword with a lot of vigor.  
(Wooden sword? This is unnatural..... I wonder if it is a restriction.)

"It seems that he was a child in the mid rankings in the past but has now grown impressively to become the runner-up for the entire thing. I believe the one who was the champion was the sister of the girl currently up there, Sif

Rembrandt is the champion this year.”

“That was no little girl.... I don’t want fight that girl even if my life depended on it.”

“I am the same way. She was quite the powerful magic user.”

Sif is the champion?

She stands above everyone this year....

“That is quite....” (Zara)

I did not know how to connect my words.

(What does this mean? Sif was not that kind of child, was she? In fact, they never came here to learn battle techniques in this school, so why? Is it because of Raidou? If he can bring up this level of students in such a short period of time then why is he a merchant!? If he does this mainly then he can get 100 –300 students paying him to teach...his income level will be much higher than any medium level merchant. This is the academy that is the most prosperous in the world. There is no doubt they will pay you more for giving useful people to the world. Being a lecturer is based on skill unlike being a merchant which is just connections. The margin of compensation is too skewed. Does he just want play being a merchant? Why is he.....?! If you are such an excellent lecturer than why were you afraid of me?)

I do not need to see any more of this match, the outcome for the entire tournament is given.

“Zara, if you have time, come with me for a second” (Bishop)

The bishop called out to me again.

He wants to talk to me.

I wonder if he wants me to see the archbishop.

I wonder if it is about the students.

If they are wondering about Sif and Yuno, then they better give up.

They will return to Tsige most likely.

(Ahh, this going to hurt my head again. I wonder if it is about Raidou, I just got ri....)

“I understand; I will be there.” (Zara)

I cannot make them wait. I was already late once. damn it, ever since Raidou came to this town, things have been really unpredictable. I wanted to relax and walk through the stands and eat some food while drinking sake. Now I have to deal with this.



# The unfortunate demise of a certain adventurer ~Adventurer Seelie~

*Between chapters 157-162*

=====

*How did it come to this?*

A terrible sight was occurring right before my eyes. Seelie... Seelie... I heard someone calling my name; it was the young girl from Lorel. I struggled to look around and realised that everyone who had been with me was dead...no, it wasn't just them? Everyone who came from Tsige had died in the battle.

I am not sure if there were any survivors from those who followed a different direction from mine, but all those who were with me were certainly dead.

It hadn't been too long ago since we left Tsige and came to the kingdom to become hired mercenaries....we aspired to start a new life here.....then the demon troops attacked. They came in full force and attacked with unbelievable coordination, engulfing the entire capital with the throes of conflict. By the time the knights sortied, the demons had already made it inside the castle and were aiming to eliminate the hero.

Nothing could be done.

The four-armed giant warrior sent a chill down my spine. I had never seen that kind of a warrior in my life. There were no monster I knew from the wastelands that could rival him. If I were still an adventurer then my thoughts would have been of escaping, but my position was that of the hero's vanguard.

Running away was not an option.

Fortunately, a white golem like being came down along with a lich and intervened in the battle with the giant. We managed to escape the castle during the confusion, but then we witnessed the state outside....houses, walls, streets....everything was in ruin. This was the result of the initial assault.....there were no signs of life in the city.

It was as if a superior dragon had attacked and that wouldn't be an exaggeration. I presumed I had switched to a safer career compared to my previous one as an adventurer in the wastelands but it seemed I was wrong.

*I will be heading back to the wastelands after this.*

"How is Wudi, Chiya."(Bredda)

"...it's dire. My magic can't keep him alive for much longer, we have to get some medicine or he will die."(Chiya)

"Please keep at it."(Bredda)

"I will do my best, but if this battle escalates and that Lich dispels this barrier, we might all die."(Chiya)

The Lich seems to have been commanded to protect the hero, and has created a barrier to protect us. The party has the hero, Hibiki. Unfortunately, the situation is deteriorating fast. Wudi, the palace magician, has a hole in his stomach. Anyone with this kind of wound would normally die, but the Lorel Priestess, Chiya, was with us. She was struggling to keep him alive but her endurance was gradually waning. The situation was really dire.

"Larva.....if that is the superior dragon Lancer, does Larva even have enough skill to oppose such an opponent?"(Hibiki)

Hibiki was watching the fight between Larva and Lancer. If common sense was considered, Lancer's loss was near impossible. Superior dragons were beings that were on par with the spirits of the world. The region in the wastelands I was situated lacked beings like superior dragons, but rumours about them circulated. Just from those rumours, I could say that nothing in the surprise box that was the wastelands could compare with them. The only things that could be able to compete with them in strength are themselves, spirits and.....the goddess. That was it.

Yet, right before me, the Lich is taking on the superior dragon. It's even damaging the dragon and seems to be overwhelming it. It was like some sort of story a minstrel made up.

Even I had defeated a few Lich in the wastelands...but against this Larva character, I wouldn't have been able to survive for 3 seconds.

“Lancer turned into a person?”

Ah.....Hibiki's words gave me the confirmation I needed. The rumours I heard told me that the superior dragon Lancer, when in a serious battle would change into human form.

In other words, yes that was indeed a superior dragon and that Lich was still overwhelming him.

*I swear to the goddess, I will be returning to the wasteland after this.*

Larva got slightly blown away....no he retreated for a second to dodge a blow. I looked up at the sky.

*We are dead for sure, the kingdom is finished. Even if Hibiki and Larva fight together, there is no way to win. I am prepared to die here.*

Even with the situations as it was, Larva rejected the cooperation of Hibiki. In fact, he told us that if we could protect ourselves for a few minutes then he would heal Wudi.

It didn't seem like he was trying to deceive us. He had fought with Lancer till then and had received serious blows, but he was still going to continue fighting.

Even though I should not have any faith in him but.....dammit, of course, I finally noticed something about him, the strange feeling I had been sensing. It was the same feeling as when I met those people. The root of the rapid growth in Tsige. The people who helped Rembrandt with the curse disease, the Miracle company, Kuzunoha. It was the same sensation as when I met Raidou, Tomoe and Mio.

He said it could be done, as such it could be done. Even if it was the impossible, he could do it. I looked up at the clouds with eyes of envy.

*So he is part of those people. Then, I...should've....*

“The negotiation has been established then. ‘Mist Temple, Nivlheim’ cancel. Let me warn you. Try to at least protect your own body, okay?” (Shiki)

Larva affirms the proposal.

*I can't give up here, I have to keep struggling until the last moment.  
If I give up here then everything I did as an adventurer would have been for*

nothing.

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Lancer, made a light sword and began attacking with it. That was his ability, but I didn't know the full details regarding the ability. Lancer was using it to fight against Larva; he did some other strange things, using fire breaths, darkness from his hand and water to heal his wounds. But that wasn't the strangest thing. What was even stranger was Larva. First he transformed his cane into a sword, and it wasn't a short sword, but a really big broad sword.

An individual would have to be incredibly strong to wield that kind of sword. I thought he was just being foolish. Hibiki had said that it had to be a ploy. But Larva showed no inclination of such but lunged at Lancer to engage in close combat. And from the looks of the skirmish, he seemed to be quite proficient at it.

*Just how abnormal of a magician is that thing?!*

The sword techniques were incredible. I had never seen anyone be so proficient with the sword before in my life. It was as if the sword emperor had taken possession of his body.

The fusion of magic skills and sword skills was at the level of perfection. He deployed several high-level magic while fighting against Lancer in close range. I was completely speechless.

Larva was overwhelming Lancer even though he was in human form. A superior dragon was losing to an undead. I was aware that there were many things that could be done because of having high magic power, but sword skills and battle instincts were not some of them. Larva was clearly above all of us combined in this aspect.

“Damn it, I should be taking all these weapons and running away. If I sell even a few of them I could live in luxury till died.....”

My voice leaked. I had stopped caring about Lancer and the situation for a moment. The swords he had made out of the people there were all first grade swords. They could all be sold at a pretty hefty price. I could live safely for the rest of my life.....but I didn't want leave that place. I wished to see the battle to its end. I wanted to know who would be the victor; The Lich or the Superior

dragon.

“(damn!)”

I felt in that moment, that Lancer’s attention had switched to us. It was at that moment that Lancer failed to dodged Larva’s sword and got his feet cut off, after which he released his swords of light at us.

Hibiki immediately took a battle stance, Bredda started to use his guardian skills and techniques. I prepared my skills and techniques I used in case of emergencies.

Skills and magic are useful tools, as long as they are used properly, battles could be won.

But over-reliance on one would be at the expense of the other. This was the basic knowledge when being an adventurer; skills and magic first, weapons and body second. This all changed when Tomoe and Mio came to Tsige. They had said to strengthen the body and learn how to proficiently use weapons first; skills and magic can be learned while in this process too. I couldn’t abide by that new concept and tried to disprove it but.....I soon realized it was the most effective way, when others started to surpass me. I became a liability in battle as my level was not on par anymore with the others. That was when I got an invitation from Hibiki.

*I wonder why I am thinking about such things.*

I looked in front of me.

*Wait, it still hasn’t reached me yet.....how long has it been?*

Lancer had shot five swords at us.

*Hey are you targeting everyone here?*

The first one destroyed the barrier Chiya had made.

*Hey, even if she is still a child, that is still the priestess of Lorel, how can you break it so easily?*

The second one broke Bredda’s shield skill in half, but he was able to stop the sword.

*Seriously, he stopped it?!*

Hibiki hit the third one and it exploded before her. Bredda and Hibiki both got blown away.

The fourth one was headed in my direction.

“Move— Perinito’s Thrust”

I used a skill that I was very familiar with. It was a skill that was effective against beasts type monsters, but since I had used it for so long I found other uses for it. Thanks to that, even though it was a thrusting skill I could use it in a swinging motion. I hit the oncoming sword with all my strength and was thrown back but I had stopped the sword. I was fine, but there had been five swords.

It pierced through the air at me. I could avoid it, and use my skill again. I just had to dodge to the left. I looked behind me and saw Chiya directly in the path of the sword.

“Damn it, Shield barr-“

I tried to use the same defensive skill as Bredda. His skill was top-notch, and I was able to copy it after having seen it. But it was only a copy, it wouldn’t be enough to stop the sword.

If I avoided it, I would be saved.

*I have a wife and kid as well. I am doing this crappy job to send money to them and make their lives better. I will dodge it no matter...no, that wouldn’t work out well.*

I wondered if that was one of those things where your brain starts to work much faster when near death. My mind which had been trained in the wastelands came to a conclusion. If I had avoided the sword, Lancer would have gone for Chiya. She would have been turned into one of his swords. A child with that much power would become an incredible sword. But if I had die he would only get a sword like the ones he had been using to fight Larva till then and would eventually lose. If he got Chiya, Larva would lose, then Hibiki, Bredda and I would all die. That was why I had to stop it.

*Any, Riera, Elisa, Chloe, Mia and everyone else*  
*I am sorry.*

“Haaaa!!!”

I threw myself in front of the sword while pushing Chiya away and got skewered.

*Man, this hurts a lot. This is no doubt a fatal wound.*

“Seelie-san”(Chiya)

“.....All according to plan” (Shiki)

While uttering a slight chuckle, I looked around. Chiya and Wudi who still had a hole in his stomach, were safe.

*Lancer! Go eat shit! I know I will soon become a sword but I am much weaker than Chiya and will become one of those weak swords that you already have. Hahahaha!*

“.....”

For a moment it seemed Larva was looking in our direction. I wanted to tell him he had better beat Lancer, but I couldn't utter a word anymore. I was slowly losing consciousness but I was convinced that Larva would win the battle, thus I felt this warm feeling surround my body.

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There are many strange things that happen in this world. Even after dying, it seems your consciousness remains. I don't know about others, maybe this might be the only occurrence, I could be the only one to experience this state. It feels like some sort of dream, so I may soon disappear as well, like all other dreams. At least I protected the girl in the end.

But then I regain my consciousness in some strange space.

I had thought that Larva had been defeated but it seemed that I had been summoned by some woman among many other numerous swords. The one in front of the woman was.....Raidou. The CEO of the Kuzunoha Company, Raidou. I observed the situation while resisting the strong sensation of drowsiness from being a sword. It seemed the woman's name was Sofia Burga, the one renowned as the dragon killer.

*Dragon Killer?*

She looked more like a dragon than Lancer himself had. Sofia's form was

really strange and she appeared to have Lancer's powers as well.

*Lancer! Larva won against Lancer! So that means he is a Dragon killer too. Just amazing.*

*Larva is one of Raidou's men as well!? Seriously what is up with that company?! Tomoe, Mio and now an undead who killed a superior dragon. This is some army of the devil.*

*Ok, maybe they are not as bad as the Devil.*

That guy was usin.....a....? A bow. Why was Raidou using a bow? I had seen him use a sword once, and we concluded that he had to have been a magician from the various rumors of his incredible magic power....but what? What was that?!

"Raidou, that is..." (Sofia)

The light flashed and several swords were destroyed. Larva had used a sword. Was it possible his master also pretended to be a magician? The situation was useless.

There was no point in fighting. Each time Raidou moved, 100 swords got shot down.

The speed at which Sofia was moving was nothing compared to his.

I was an inferior sword Lancer had made but I could feel that Sofia was using all the superior swords that Lancer still had lying around. Wow, such a thing.....I couldn't even find it amusing anymore.

Raidou was overwhelming her without breaking a sweat. His face was in stark contrast to that of Sofia's. She wore a struggling expression and voice, while Raidou's was akin to having a stroll in the park. For a second I thought Raidou looked my way....the end was near. I could tell from my years of experience at being an adventurer. I understood he would conclude it in the following blow.

I felt no hostility, nor murderous intent. It was a serene gaze devoid of emotion. It had never been a fight, merely a display of overwhelming force without the hope of retaliation; it was so one-sided.

*Why did Sofia even try to fight Raidou?*

I would have never tried to antagonize Raidou even if the Goddess had been



backing me up.

I wondered if the people back in Tsige knew of this. That he was much more of a monster than Tomoe and Mio combined. Maybe Toa and her party had noticed, that was why they were cooperating with them.

*I traveled the wasteland for 20 years, gave up being an adventurer, went to Limia for a better job.....got killed....then witnessed true essence of the man named Raidou.*

*The world is such a mysterious place....what a life I have lived*

# The Ancient Dragon Laughs as the Academy Town’s Peace is Destroyed *Root*

*Between chapters 143–150*

=====

The variants’ rampage, in the cities, has been continuing for a few days already.

The damage done to the city is enormous.

The city has stopped moving and is not able to get in contact with the neighbouring cities at all.

The situation is awfully serious.

The information being relayed in this shelter, which is also operated like an HQ for the city officials, has not received a single bit of good news.

In all of this city’s history, it has never been involved in wars. Therefore, the city being burdened to the point of closely approaching destruction is obvious.

They have evacuated key people from various countries, but seeing the situation play out in this fashion, the young man gave a small sigh.

The sigh was not from despair or pessimism, but out of disappointment and pity. This young man’s eyes did not contain fear, even in this situation.

*This school has stagnated for too long. If the founder had seen this, he would have immediately re-thought establishing this school. They have been at peace for too long and have been too negligent in the preparations for attacks and emergency situations.*(Root)

The youth’s name is Falz, the leader of the adventure guild.

Although this name, along with many others, is just his aliases, his real name is Root.

He is the oldest dragon in the world, and barely anyone left in this world knows his name.

Lancer, Grount, Clad, and *etc.* are all superior dragons known to the public, and Root is the superior dragon that stands above them all.

In the past, people had worshipped this dragon and called it “harmony”

because of the harmony of colours on its body.

However, this is all an old story.

Currently, this superior dragon serves as the leader of the adventure guild. He does not interfere with the world anymore and is now just relaxing, a spectator of the world.

*Well, since my guild does not have an active branch in this city we are only responsible for some paperwork here and there. I have sent a small fighting force, but I told them to pretend to fight and nothing more. The only ones fighting are the school's purple guards and the mercenary force they have in this city. The situation is quite devastating.*(Root)

Root goes over the current situation in a very nonchalant manner. The first variant was the mutation of the Hopelace child ... what was his name ... oh well. Then, several other variants had appeared and the city's forces could barely kill any of them.

The number of variants did not stop either and their numbers just kept increasing. Some of the shelters have been destroyed as well.

Also, other information suggests that 30% of the townspeople have either been killed or are missing.

It is quite the disaster.

*The demons are quite clever with this plan. Although I do believe detonating this place is to be done much later. I guess the heroes are that much of an eyesore to them, from seeing this plan ... I am 70% sure that their target is the hero in the kingdom. Well, I do understand why too, that child has already figured out the most effective strategy to beat the demons.*(Root)

He knew that this was a plan made by the demons, and he knew that this city is not their goal.

If you were to ask why he knew, it would be because he is the adventure guild leader... no, because he knows what this world is up to.

Root is a superior dragon and not a god. Thus, he is more informed of all worldly matters.

He is not a friend to demons, nor is he a friend to humans.

If we were to say who he is an ally to, it would be adventurers as he is their guardian.

Whether it be the humans or the demons, he knows that neither side has a problem with the existence of adventurers.

That is why he did not speak to anyone about the demons' plans, or inform the demons of the heroes existence in advance. He does not care about what kind of future will be chosen and he does not care about what kind of damage will be done, for as long as it does not involve adventurers or his world.

Naturally, this ideal applies to Makoto as well. Despite currently being Root's favourite, Root would still not change this ideal for him.

If you were to ask him anything, you will obtain more questions than answers, and with maybe the one answer you could infer is that he will not move right now.

"Falz-dono, do you have a moment?"(Saritsu)

"Oh, is it something difficult to speak of here?"(Root)

"..... Yes, just a bit."(Saritsu)

"... How honest. Well, then shall we depart?"(Root)

"Let us go forth then."(Saritsu)

The woman who had come up to Root, and is also making the same bitter face as everyone, is the woman who has a very vital position in the country of Lorel. In the past few days, Root has been called out to talk to by the King of Limia, prince Joshua of Limia, and princess Lily of Gritonia as well. Therefore, it is no wonder that both Aion and Lorel will also come to talk to him. The school is currently noticeably busy with the variants and protecting important guests, so the two were allowed to leave the headquarters quietly.

"Well then, what is it that you would like to talk about? I will tell you right now though that I have no connections to those students, and I yet to have a close connection to their teacher, Raidou-dono."(Root)

"... There have been some reports about you two being together during the festival, but right now this is not what I wanted to discuss ..... Also, there is someone in the group from the Ikusabe house there and I will be hearing a report from him."(Saritsu)

"Izumo-kun, is it not wonderful that an heir to a branch house of your country

has so much power? I think it is a good thing to obtain as many powerful individuals as possible, do you not agree?"(Root)

Root speaks to Saritsu while combining both a joke and a hidden irony. It was also a playful jab at her.

Only someone of his status is able to do this.

Because he is the leader of the adventure guild and will all be passed off as is crude remark.

*The Limia Kingdom also asked about the girl Amelia, who was quite active in the stadium. The party of students were all remarkably interesting. But, I will make sure to increase my stock with Makoto by protecting them here.*(Root)

Root, who was asked what the girl Amelia Hopelace was, feigned ignorance and lead them astray, for now, which includes the princess of Gritonia. The students are getting real attention right now, but it seems like Makoto-kun does not want them to fight or get involved in this situation. Thus, he had followed this policy.

Of course, he already knew everything there is to know about these students.

"... Ahh, please, the topic is quite a headache to me right now. I personally agree with Falz-dono, but in this age bloodline is not everything."(Saritsu)

"Lorel seems to be in a difficult position in this war, including the topic of the wise ... Oh yes, as a mention for a friend, please withdraw from this matter regarding Raidou-dono. He is a new friend of mine and I do not want to worry about little matters."(Root)

"Raidou-dono ..... he is quite the mysterious person, noticed by every single large power and is close friends with the leader of the adventure guild."(Saritsu)

"That man is the most interesting person right now in this world, and I do not get bored when I am with him."(Root)

"... Why do you have such an unknown person, who even with our information network could not find anything about him, as a friend?"(Saritsu)

"He is an unknown person? No, his background is quite clear."(Root)

"What?"(Saritsu)

To the passing remarks of Root, Saritsu shows a surprised expression. Even with the use of Lorel's vast information network and cognition ability, they were only able to classify the man Raidou as "mysterious merchant A". To be able to obtain that amount of power and amassing that much personnel makes him an abnormality.

"Raidou Misumi, he was born between a bureaucrat and priest of a certain country. They had then moved to a city deep inside the wilderness at the end of the world when he was young. The house was a large merchant in that city, and ever since he was little he was aiming to be a merchant. He is currently training under the arm of Patrick Rembrandt and has a store in Tsige."(Root)

"..."(Saritsu)

"The Rembrandt family had a very deep connection with the Misumi family and was happy to receive Raidou under his arm. Now Raidou, using Rembrandt's cooperation as a backbone, is expanding his business. What is not clear?"(Root)

"This is the first time I heard about his birth, but a city in the wilderness at the end of the world. Does such a place exist?"(Saritsu)

"Yes, I have seen it myself."(Root)

"By the way, I heard a report that states a base was completely destroyed at the very end of the world ... How did a city survive there?"(Saritsu)

"Of course, there are powerful individuals living there as you can clearly see from Raidou-dono."(Root)

Root does not break his smile and composure. There is no disorder in the tone of his voice.

"Falz-dono, a certain person had once told me that the best way to lie is to mix in some truth within the lie."(Saritsu)

"Oh, is that true? I must try it for myself, but I believe a better way to lie is to make the lie into a truth."(Root)

"Oh, that is also an interesting opinion."(Saritsu)

"Hahahaha"(Root)

“Fufufufufu”(Saritsu)

The false laughter had stopped and they both faced each other again.

“Well then, what is it that you wanted to talk about? Surely, he was not the topic.”(Root)

“He is related, but yes that is not the main topic. I am sorry for the derailment.”(Saritsu)

“No, please, it was I who had done so in the beginning. The topic is similar, so is it about Tomoe-dono’s sword or the Kuzunoha Company itself?”(Root)

“It is the Kuzunoha Company itself. I will ask you straight, why are they not moving? I do know that the students that fought before were his own students, and you had mentioned before he is strong ... Therefore, why does he not move? I do understand that he and his aides are much stronger than all of us here ... What is your opinion Falz-dono?”(Saritsu)

“I must say, I am quite tired of this topic. I have been asked this too many times over the past several days.”(Root)

“This incident is no doubt the demons doing. But, the silence from the Kuzunoha Company is leading to me to believe ... as you can guess. You seem to know more about Raidou-dono than me, so I would like your opinion on this.”(Saritsu)

“Haha, him a demon?”(Root)

“I guess I shall take your laughter as him not being related at all to the demons. It is a very nice conclusion I must say.”(Saritsu)

“..... Teplasodai Company”(Root)

“What?”(Saritsu)

Root, who suddenly started laughing at the idea of Kuzunoha Company being part of the demon troops, gave Saritsu the answer she was looking for. Then, suddenly he said the name of a company which made her shocked and made him in turn smile.

The serious face she had from before is gone.

*Nevertheless, ¾ of the superpowers are considering Kuzunoha Company to be*

*a part of the demon troops. If this was true, then this war would have been over and a new war would have started. They have the power to end this war without a single loss. They are better than demons and humans combined in terms of weapons, magic research, and information gathering. Well, I guess it was a fortune for them to have met Raidou here as a magician. I do think it will be interesting to see them ride this mistake into their little heads, but I will stop it right now and tell her a bit of the truth ... this plan could be interesting too.*  
(Root)

“Do you know the name?”(Root)

“Yes, it is a company my uncle has been dealing with for some time now. I believe it is stationed in Rotsgard.”(Saritsu)

“You do know the products they sell right. They also have considerable influence in the merchant guild here.”(Root)

“Yes, they specialise in medicine and is a company that is quite open in my country. Their pharmaceutical technology is also quite superior.”(Saritsu)

“Yes, I am glad you are familiar with it ... You also must know that the Kuzunoha Company mainly handles medicine as well ... Well, they do have other products but their main product is medicine.”(Root)

“Of course I am aware of this. The scale of the two companies are quite different, so are you trying to say that they are competing? No matter what the price and size are, they will not engage with each other...”(Saritsu)

It was then that he shook his head.

The troubled feeling she had in her heart was growing.

*No, there is no way ... it must not be possible? Teplasodai Company tried to absorb Kuzunoha Company, tried to crush Raidou? But, wait a moment ... then the story the representative of the company who spoke to me the other day ... the story is different.*(Saritsu)

“The effectiveness and price of the medicine at the Kuzunoha Company far excel anything in this world, so it first leads to friction among the small stores. But, as their reputation increased, Kuzunoha Company soon affected them as well. The representative of that company pushed the guild chairperson to crush the Kuzunoha company. He had also falsified documents and spread rumours



about the link between the demons and Kuzunoha Company.”(Root)

“No way, I will ... this must be a lie?”(Saritsu)

“Of course there were other players, but the all of those threads will lead back to Teplasodai”(Root)

“How foolish.”(Saritsu)

“The CEO of Teplasodai, himself had come in the end, because you personally had met with the Kuzunoha Company CEO. I am guessing he felt endangered or something along those lines?”(Root)

“..... What is the relationship between the merchant guild of this city and the Kuzunoha Company?”(Saritsu)

While feeling like she had lost power in her legs, she fixed her posture.

“Oh, that relationship is just terrible. I believe he had told Raidou-dono to ‘pack your bags and get out of town.’ Raidou-dono was quite affected by this, and I do think this is the main reason he does not move yet.”(Root)

“I do feel sorry for him. But, right now with the amount of damage to the town, I do not think that will work”(Saritsu)

“Feel sorry, hahaha, well this will be a serious problem for the Teplasodai Company and for Raidou-dono. I will tell you this, he is too pure of a person.”(Root)

“He is too pure?”(Saritsu)

“Well, I would not worry any further as he should move very soon since this would be the right time to move. I believe you will take care of the other matter on your end.’(Root)

“Of course, although it is not a major crime, for the sake of the future of the country, the cooperation of Kuzunoha company is needed. That is why that stupid business and my foolish uncle will both be punished. They have distorted my words and unjustly hurt this country’s interests.”(Saritsu)

“How scary, I see you have been tolerating that company for quite a while now.” (Root)

“I had only tolerated it because they were good for the country and the people. But, now that they have hurt the nation’s interests, they will be punished.”(Saritsu)

“As I have said before, I quite like Lorel for flexibility and ruthlessness. A particularly nice combination.”(Root)

“I thank you. I feel as I now know how to deal, or at least negotiate, with the Kuzunoha Company.”(Saritsu)

“That is good then.”(Root)

Root and Saritsu now walk in opposite directions to each other. This was the end of their conversation.

She was not expecting much from Root, but thankfully she had obtained valuable information.

She learned that someone had been hurt while she was unaware.

But, this was a common situation in her world.

However, this individual if hurt could be on the verge of never being recovered.

Root seeing Saritsu attitude knew one thing.

She believed that she could repair the relationship with Raidou.

Perfectly transmitting this idea with her eyes.

“Well, I guess she will handle this situation quietly. It is not like he will care if this company disappears, and I don’t believe he will care about it, even after he finds out. What a scary person she is ... Well, I believe that the Kuzunoha Company will now start moving today. I wonder what will happen to this town and the heroes? Well, at least I know this, that company will be annihilated from this day forward. They will lose a representative and a powerful supporter at the same time. That company is one of the big 5 in this town. What a pity, what a pity.”(Root)

Root mutters leisurely.

Although the reason he is happy is mostly from self-interest but he is also happy that he could eliminate a trouble for Raidou.

Root felt strong affection towards him.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is an optimal time for action for everything.

The Kuzunoha company knew this and acted exactly at this optimal time. It was only a few days ago that relief from the various countries had arrived, but contact was still down.

It was exactly the day Root had predicted that Raidou and the Kuzunoha Company started to move.

In the streets full of the bodies of variants and mercenaries, they came in like a hero and cleaned up each street they went to.

It was the same way a sweeper does his job, wherever he goes the place is clean.

In just one day.

The residents deeply carved the name Kuzunoha Company into their hearts. Despite having been with them for so long in the shelters, they had no idea until they started to lead the relief efforts.

They distributed food which was not in sufficient quantity but was enough to ensure basic survival. They then secured each evacuation centre.

They created countermeasures for the variants and cooperated with the school to subdue them.

It was on this day that they engraved the name of the saviour of the city, Kuzunoha.

“They had sent Makoto to the merchant guild to show his power huh? You guys were that angry. Rembrandt has fixed the situation there and the wind is changing for that place too.”(Root)

Makoto’s magic was shining in the night sky. Root who had seen this light from the same place where Tomoe was is still standing even after she had left. He muttered a small monologue.

“A simple arrow was able to destroy thousands of those devices that the demons had built with their blood, heart, and sweat. Makoto-kun is amazing but the demons’ anger is also amazing ..... Now Kuzunoha Company will be a saviour on the same level as the goddess in Rotsgard. If the temple is not careful there may be people who may start a Kuzunoha church.”(Root)

The Kuzunoha Company’s reputation in Rotsgard was assured now. But, if they had done this when the damage to the city was low then no one would have cared. Only when people are genuinely in despair can they truly

appreciate the hope others give them. This truth was revealed by Tomoe's mocking of the humans.

Makoto-kun saving the city will now be known to the world.

This will surely help them in their business.

This was a very funny situation for Root.

“But still, what is most amazing is your timing of the shot. Although I have said this to Tomoe, right now the Goddess is unable to move and is being bound to obedience. Fate must truly exist for such a thing to happen. I thought I would give you a full score because of Tomoe's words but you have far exceeded any score I could give ... truly never a dull day.”(Root)

Root's words melted away into the darkness of the night in the city of Rotsgard.

# Shiki in Rotsgard *Shiki*

*Between chapters 167–169*

=====

I reminisce about the events during my time with Waka-sama.  
I thought I had always grasped this but this time again I learned the true capabilities of this body.  
That is how I felt during the ordeal this time.  
Far north of Rotsgard, the humans and demons are waging their war, and have now brought that war to Rotsgard with their large scale attack plan.  
The miraculous meddling of the second son of the Hopelace house of Limia.  
The unique meeting and contact we had with the dragon knight troops, from the commonwealth of Lorel.  
The encounter with the goddess ... no the reunion with the goddess for Waka-sama?  
Oh, yes, speaking of reunion, Waka-sama's rematch with Sofia and the dragon Lancer.  
Indeed, this time was quite turbulent.  
The people who are contracted with Waka-sama; Makoto-sama, are in order Tomoe-dono, Mio-dono, and me.  
Tomoe-dono and Mio-dono did not participate in our battle with Lancer and Sofia, but they were given a different task, seizing Kaleneon.  
I accompanied Waka-sama and ... killed the superior dragon, Lancer.  
That was the greatest moment of my life, I felt that clearly.

“Now that I think about it, I believe it was a somewhat reckless fight ... But I got past that trial, even though it was a superior dragon.”(Shiki)

I am still nowhere near Mio-dono and Tomoe-dono in terms of strength, but I am slowly but surely growing little by little as a follower to our Master.  
Also, I think it should be obvious but under a control contract, when we fight for Waka-sama's sake in battle, we get a certain sense transmitted to us.  
Despite it still being an unfamiliar sense, that sense is one of the most comfortable feelings in this world.

Now that I think about it, before meeting Waka-sama, I was just living in order to complete my research and nothing else.

It is true that if you trace my true origin ... you could say it was for a friend, but as I went on, it slowly became only for the sake of completing the research.

I did not have any purpose, just the means.

To do something without a purpose is utterly meaningless

My current life is for Waka-sama.

In order to keep watching the path he treads.

I have to continue to get stronger.

“But still, those two demon instructors, I know they wanted to beat Lancer and Sofia as well but to make me fight in a simulated battle ... training me right after that is cruel.”(Shiki)

It was bad on my part to say I accidentally encountered Lancer during the battle when I made my report.

It was thanks to this fact that I could barely have a good rest after getting back as they made me clean up all the leftover variants that were in the city.

Well, other people did the other jobs thus it was fine.

We, the Kuzunoha Company, have finished most of the work we needed to do in the city already.

I only did what my master wanted me to do.

Now I have to wait for the results.

The remaining Variant parts in the streets were cleaned up by the Forest Oni and the Elder Dwarves and was processed safely.

Now the entire city views us as saviours ... it is impossible to treat us as a threat in the eyes of the people and the principal and merchant guild chief Zara has given us their support.

Waka-sama wishes to continue cooperating with the restoration of the city.

“You have all come?”(Shiki)

I was at a café near the academy.

I was notified by the waitress that my guest had come.

I caught the sight of a familiar person in my vision.

Today the students forced Waka-sama to give them a lecture, Waka-sama, as a result, gave them a punishment called “Practice match” with the Mist Lizards.

This time there were 3 Mist Lizards and the last one used an unfamiliar form of CQC that drove despair into the student named Jin Rohan.

I was watching this match with a bitter smile as this was just trampling them down.

Thus, in the future, Waka-sama forced them to help out with the reconstruction of the city, so they had no choice but to accept it.

I had been called out by one of the students because of some business he had with me.

Waka-sama has given me permission to handle this and has also given me abundant funds.

“You can use as much as you think you will need”(Makoto)

He has allowed me to use as much I as need.

Granting we are under a control contract, he has placed this much trust in me. Also, a part of his reasoning for saying this is because we have a great deal of money that we still do not have any plan, or idea, of what to do with it.

“Shiki-san, I am sorry to keep you waiting”(Misura)

“No, please do not worry, I did not wait for that long. Misura, why is it that you could not have just told me where the place I wanted to go is and wanted to instead lead me there?”(Shiki)

He is Misura Kazak.

He has parents that are devout followers of the goddess, and he himself also participates in these activities in service of the temple.

However, if you were to say he was a devout follower then I will say that you are wrong.

He is a type of person that is carried by the flow and cannot go against it.

In other words, he is obedient to his parents and is only doing these activities for them.

Misura himself has a neutral view in the field of religion.

His battle style of defensive walls, mastery of recovery magic, and his role as the team shield makes him quite admirable.

“I am sorry, it is just that the place you wanted to go to is by the temple, and I was also called by the Archbishop so our paths align.”(Misura)

I stand up and start walking with Misura.  
There is a place I want to go to in Rotsgard, so I asked one of the students that have lived here for some time to aid me. Misura seemed to know where this place is, so he had said he would guide me.  
Amelia also wanted to come but this time I refused.  
So the place was beside the temple?  
It is true that I am not familiar with that part of the city.  
I will start making a mental map of it now.

“The Archbishop called you is that right? Well, Misura is a devout follower of the goddess just like your parents.”(Shiki)

I made a slight playful Jab at Misura.

“..... No, It is just the wishes of my parents, there are many devout followers in the temple but I am not one of them. It is easily misunderstood too, but the current Archbishop is an interesting person so I am not that bothered going there.”(Misura)

“Hmm, the Archbishop is an interesting person ... is it because she is also a very beautiful person?”(Shiki)

“No, Shiki-san, that person although an Archbishop, a high-ranking priest, she still smokes. There is no opinion regarding beauty for that person. In fact, most people think she is quite ugly because there is no way someone who could make it to such a high ranking position could be beautiful”(Misura)

“Ah ..... tobacco? Really?”(Shiki)

That woman, a smoker?  
This is certainly unusual.  
Because Waka-sama hates smokers he asserted to the people of Asora to try and not to do it as much as possible, but if you are going to do it then please stay far away from children.  
I do know for a fact that it is not good for your health, but whether it does something to your beauty I have yet to confirm.  
The elder dwarves and Highland Orc have people who smoke.

“The archbishop had said this: ‘Even if it is bad for the body, helping the heart will keep my beauty intact for far longer.’”(Misura)



“That is a very honest opinion, she does seem to be interesting.”(Shiki)

Does she mean that stress will affect her more than smoking?

To me who knows the truth, it just sounds like an excuse to keep smoking.

“That person is quite flexible in regards to faith and service to the temple ... so I kind of like the current Archbishop that handles things loosely.”(Misura)

“Hmm, another honest opinion ..... so the current Archbishop is flexible ... hmm, is that so?”(Shiki)

“She does not only praise the devout followers but also the bottom grass roots who are doing the work.”(Misura)

“I see”(Shiki)

... It is a troublesome type of person.

She seems to want to connect the people and the temple quickly.

Well, we have no fear for now of the residents turning on us.

Should I give thanks to the variants and demons that attacked?

“Today, she wanted to hear stories about the reconstruction of the city.”(Misura)

“Oh, is she trying to pull you in?”(Shiki)

“I am acquainted with both the temple and academy, so they probably are watching me from somewhere.”(Misura)

“Using Misura as a bridge to rope the others in huh?”(Shiki)

Is she also planning on using Misura to rope us in?

If she is, then I must have overestimated her.

“Well, that is a weird way of putting but yes that may be her aim.”(Misura)

“... No, it was a rude remark, I should not have called the archbishop a schemer. I am sorry Misura”(Shiki)

After all, she does not see us in plain view.

What a pity.

I become relaxed.

“Oh, Shiki-san ... here is the place you wanted to go. Just take a left and then

go straight.”(Misura)

“Oh, is that so? Thank you Misura, it really was close to the temple. Please tell the Archbishop sorry for having you guide me and keeping her waiting.”(Shiki)

“... No, it is no problem ..... by the way.”(Misura)

“Hmm, what is it?”(Shiki)

“What kind of business do you have in the residential area ahead? Is it a lover?”(Misura)

“Haha, Misura did Amelia tell you to probe my errand?”(Shiki)

“No, of course not Shiki-san, she definitely did not say to find out if you have a lover or even a kid.”(Misura)

... What does she mean by that?

Daughter? Lover?

What are you thinking Amelia and even asking Misura to do this.

It must have been troubling for him.

But ..... this will be fun.

Let's play with them for a bit.

“Oh, How smart.”(Shiki)

“Hmm?”(Misura)

“You are exactly right, Misura. There are a woman and child ahead. Please keep it a secret from everyone else. Well, then I shall see you later.”(Shiki)

“Oh, yes”(Misura)

I put my finger over my lips and smile at him.

Well, I am certain there are a woman and child.

... Just they are not mine.

Misura did not follow me after that and just watched my back while I was walking away.

Eventually, he got out of his stunned state and headed for the temple.

Fufu.

When I said to keep it a secret, I considered that Misura is the one person who can never keep a secret. He will tell everyone in this city that I have a woman

and child.

What fun.

I could not stop my laughter for awhile.

Oh, I have arrived.

I stopped at one of the houses.

I knock on it and wait.

“Excuse me, I am with the Kuzunoha Company, is this the home of Chloe Narga?”(Shiki)

Even if it was something I planned in that fight to happen.

I was in the end aided by that adventurer to defeat Lancer.

I do not know what he said in his last words.

Because he was turned into a sword by Lancer and disappeared.

That gesture, soul, and thought were not conveyed to me.

But at least.

Let me repay my gratitude to you in some form.

..... I know this is selfish.

“... Kuzunoha Company, I am sorry but keep your stuff-“(Chloe)

“Adventurer Seelie Bait has passed away ... I am to inform of his passing as a soldier and as a friend ..... I also have been entrusted to hand you the inheritance he has for you.”(Shiki)

I tell the story to the woman who had come out.

There are 5 women who are related to him.

Even as an adventurer, it seems Seelie had time to play around.

He was successful as an adventurer.

He kept sending money to these women who he has never lived with even once.

This person named Chloe is the first person on my list.

After this visit, I have to go to 4 other places ..... I have to tell them about his death and the inheritance.

Whether they had a close relationship with him and broke down like this woman in front is not my problem either.

But I will make sure that they receive the inheritance.

Of course, this inheritance is a fake, I have prepared the amount of money with

Waka-sama's permission.

I am sure it will be necessary for them in the future.

Seelie Bait has disappeared without even leaving a soul.

I could not defeat Lancer without his cooperation, for my weakness caused him to die.

Therefore, I will make sure they receive the proper compensation.

I know this is just selfish on my part, but I want to do this.

Hopefully, you can rest in peace Seelie Bait.

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